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Humboldt National Forest
Land and Resource Management Plan

Final Environmental Impact Statement

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FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Elko, Humboldt, Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine Counties, Nevada

Type of Action:	Administrative
Responsible Federal Agency:	Forest Service, USDA
Responsible Official:	J. S. Tixier Regional Forester Intermountain Region USDA - Forest Service 324 25th Street Ogden, UT 84401
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Abstract: This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Humboldt National Forest, discloses public comment analysis, responses, and changes to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), filed June 28, 1985. Alternatives, including a "no-action" alternative, for managing the land and resources of the Forest are described. The land area involved is 2,527,929 acres. The alternatives provide different mixes of management direction, resulting in different levels of outputs, goods, and services. Environmental consequences of implementing the alternatives are displayed.

THIS DOCUMENT AND ITS SUPPORTIVE ANALYSIS PROVIDES SPECIFIC DISCLOSURE OF ESTIMATED ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR A PERIOD OF 10 TO 15 YEARS. ESTIMATES BEYOND THIS PERIOD ARE DISPLAYED FOR DECISIONMAKER AND PUBLIC INFORMATION ONLY.

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) discusses nine alternatives developed in preparation of The Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) for the Humboldt National Forest. Two other alternatives (B and G) were considered and dropped due to similarities with other alternatives. The environment to be affected and the environmental consequences of implementing each alternative are also discussed. The EIS was published in draft form for public review and comment. Subsequently this Final EIS and Forest Plan which responds to the comments of the public has been prepared.

CHAPTER I - PURPOSE AND NEED

The Humboldt National Forest manages 2,527,929 acres of mountain forest and rangeland in northern and eastern Nevada. The Jarbidge Wilderness is the only designated wilderness area on the Forest. It contains 64,667 acres and is located in northern Nevada, near the Idaho-Nevada state line.

The Forest extends southward from the Idaho border, along the north central portion of Nevada, to a point 130 miles north of Las Vegas, in southeastern Nevada. The Humboldt National Forest is divided into five Ranger Districts, with offices located in Mountain City, Wells, Ely, and Winnemucca, Nevada, and Buhl, Idaho. The Forest Supervisor's Office is located in Elko, Nevada.Planning is conducted under authority of the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960, and the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. Assessment of the environmental consequences of the alternatives considered in the development of the Forest Plan is done in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500 - 1508).

The scope of the issues and concerns to be addressed in the Forest Plan and Final EIS were identified from comments solicited through individual and group contacts, written responses, and from the Forest Service Staff. The comments were analyzed and condensed into nine "planning problems."

The planning problems are an integral part of the planning process. They are linked to the development and evaluation of the alternatives. The manner in which they are addressed by each alternative is displayed in the final section of Chapter II.

CHAPTER II - ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Nine alternatives for managing the lands and resources of the Humboldt National Forest were evaluated in detail. A brief description of the alternatives follows:

ALTERNATIVES

CHARACTERISTICS	ALTERNATIVE A SIGNIFICANT WILDERNESS/ COMMODITY EMPHASIS	ALTERNATIVE C PRESENT NET VALUE	ALTERNATIVE D CURRENT BUDGET
GOAL	Determine production of all outputs that would occur if a significant amount of roadless areas on the Forest were designated for wilderness management.	Emphasize production of a mix of market and nonmarket goods that provide the greatest net dollar return.	Determine the level of goods and services produced when the budget remains at the current level.
COSTS (1982 Dollars) 1986-2035	Average annual budget is $3,844,000.	Average annual budget is $3,508,000.	Average annual budget is is $3,040,000.
RESOURCE OUTPUTS	Second highest number of acres designated as wilderness (1,233,676). Most resource outputs increase. Mineral leased acres decrease significantly.	Most outputs increase slightly. Mineral lease acres and woodland products decrease slightly. Wilderness acres are 713,786.	Wilderness acres are 330,278. Dispersed recreation and wilderness use increase moderately. All other resources decrease slightly to moderately.
SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC	Wilderness opportunities increase. Recreation services greater than current. Dispersed recreation services increase significantly.	Service in dispersed recreation, wilderness, and wildlife and fish user days increases moderately. Developed recreation services increase slightly.	Slight decline in services over time except for dispersed recreation and wilderness.

ALTERNATIVES

CHARACTERISTICS	ALTERNATIVE E CONSTRAINED BUDGET	ALTERNATIVE F 1985 RPA UPDATE	ALTERNATIVE H CURRENT MANAGEMENT
GOAL	Determine production of goods and services with a 10-year average budget minus 25%. Provides custodial management only. No new construction will be undertaken.	Emphasize production to supply the Forest's share of outputs specified in in the Intermountain Regional Guide to reach tentative national goals.	Emphasize production of goods and services when current management practices are continued into the future. This is the no action alternative.
COSTS (1982 Dollars) 1986-2035	Average annual budget is $2,224,000.	Average annual budget is $5,110,000.	Average annual budget is $3,040,000.
RESOURCE OUTPUTS	Wilderness acres are the existing 64,667. All outputs are at low level. Range AUMs and developed recreation decrease significantly.	Wilderness acres exceed existing situation by 215,351. Significant increases occur in most outputs. Moderate increases occur in dispersed recreation and woodland products.	Some 438,411 acres are proposed for wilderness. Most resource outputs remain constant. Developed and dispersed recreation increase slightly.
SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC	Lowest level of service. Quality of recreation service and experiences will decline.	Highest level of service.	Developed and dispersed recreation services designed to be consistent with demand.

ALTERNATIVES

CHARACTERISTICS	ALTERNATIVE I MARKET OPPORTUNITIES	ALTERNATIVE J NON-MARKET OPPORTUNITIES	ALTERNATIVE K PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
GOAL	Emphasize production of resources that provide income to the Government. Includes production of livestock, minerals, developed recreation, and woodland products.	Non-revenue producing resources are emphasized over market opportunity outputs. Includes wilderness, wildlife and fish, water, and dispersed recreation activities.	Developed to resolve major issues identified through public input. Seeks a mix of market and non-market resources while providing protection to the environment.
COSTS (1982 Dollars) 1986-2035	Average annual budget is $3,285,000.	Average annual budget is $3,325,000.	Average annual budget is $4,042,000.
RESOURCE OUTPUTS	Current 64,667 acres designated for wilderness. Largest number of acres leased for mineral activity. Wilderness and wildlife and fish use decrease. Other outputs increase slightly.	Largest number of acres designated for wilderness (1,807,395). Fewest number of acres designated for mineral leasing. Range AUMs, developed recreation, and woodland products decrease moderately. Other resources increase moderately.	Wilderness acres increase to 332,967 acres (248,700 more than existing situation). Range AUMs, minerals, recreation, fuelwood, christmas trees, and wildlife outputs increase. Other outputs remain essentially the same.
SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC	Services for revenue producing outputs take precedence over other services such as recreation, wilderness, and wildlife.	Service increases in wilderness, dispersed recreation, and fish and wildlife use. It will decrease in range, developed recreation, and minerals.	Services will increase for virtually all resource activities.

CHAPTER III - THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This chapter describes the present condition of each Humboldt National Forest resource and the environment affected by implementing any of the alternatives. Future demand for the Forest's resources, the Forest's ability to supply that demand, and the expected future condition of the resources are summarized. Information in this chapter was drawn primarily from the analysis of the management situation, approved in June 1984.

Recreation

In 1983, the Forest recorded 579,000 recreation visitor days 1/ despite being a considerable distance from any major population center. Las Vegas to the south and Salt Lake City to the east both have major recreation destination areas closer than the Humboldt National Forest. The recreational opportunity spectrum (ROS) is highly diversified and includes camping, picnicking, driving for pleasure, helicopter skiing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, hiking, hunting, and fishing.

There are 28 developed camping and picnic areas and 5 scenic/interpretive sites on the Forest. Total recreation capacity measured in persons-at-one-time (PAOTs) for these sites is 3,075. Most developed facilities use occurs during the summer months and the fall hunting season. Demand for these sites is expected to exceed supply by the year 2000.

Private developed recreation sites are those on the National Forest operated under permit for profit or private use. Recreation special uses occurring on the Humboldt include operation of camping sites for large groups run by organizations such as the Boy Scouts and outfitter guides, and summer homes. The Forest grants "term permits" (specified for a particular period of time) or "annual permits" (reevaluated yearly) for these uses. Summer home use on the Forest will remain at a fixed level for the immediate future. No new homesites will be established and no additional permits will be issued.

Dispersed recreation is use away from developed sites. Major activities include driving for pleasure, backpacking, mountain climbing, picnicking, camping, fishing, hiking, and hunting. Winter dispersed recreation includes cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, helicopter skiing, ice fishing, sledding, and snow play activities. Use will be most intense on weekends and holidays in areas served by high standard access roads and on lands closest to city populations. Demand for dispersed recreation will increase throughout the planning horizon.

There are approximately 990 miles of trails on the Forest. Five miles have been constructed since 1977. The Ruby Crest Trail (40 miles long) and the Wheeler Peak Trail (10 miles long) are National Recreation Trails. Most trail use occurs in the summer, but winter use is increasing.

1/ One visitor day equals one person for 12 hours.

The Forest contains three scenic and special attraction areas. These are Lehman Cave National Monument and Wheeler Peak and Lamoille Canyon Scenic Areas. The Lehman Cave National Monument is administered by the National Park Service. The Wheeler Peak Scenic Area contains large stands of bristlecone pine trees considered to be the oldest living things in the world. Some approach 5,000 years of age. Lamoille Canyon Scenic Area contains numerous high elevation lakes.

There are 625 recorded cultural resource sites on the Forest. There are an estimated 57,000 sites not yet inventoried. No sites are recorded on the National Register.

Wilderness

Emphasis of wilderness management is to protect wilderness ecosystems while allowing for a broad array of compatible uses.

Local interest in designation and management of wilderness areas is very high. The Humboldt National Forest manages the 64,667 acre Jarbidge Wilderness Area, the only designated wilderness on the Forest and in the State of Nevada. The RARE II evaluation conducted in 1978-79 recommended that four Forest roadless areas be recommended for wilderness.

The RARE II decision was challenged by the State of California. The legal challenge resulted in a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision that the RARE II Environmental Impact Statement was inadequate. On February 1, 1983, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, after evaluating the court decision, decided that all roadless areas, both those recommended for wilderness and non-wilderness, would be subject to reevaluation through the Forest Planning process.

There are 49 roadless areas containing approximately 1,742,728 acres on the Forest. Appendix C of this document contains a description and list of roadless areas that the Humboldt National Forest has evaluated for wilderness during the planning process.

Wildlife

An estimated 325 species of fish and wildlife inhabit the Humboldt National Forest. These are predominantly birds (210 species) and mammals (78 species). Twenty-five are designated gamebirds (including waterfowl) and six are big game species. Several major mule deer herds reside on the Forest.

There are three Federally listed fish and wildlife species under the Endangered Species Act, on the Forest. The bald eagle and peregrine falcon are listed as endangered, and the Lahontan cutthroat trout is listed as threatened. Both the eagle and the falcon are winter visitors to the Forest. A cooperative effort between the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and Nevada Department of Wildlife was initiated in 1984 to reestablish peregrine falcons in Ruby Valley. The Forest also has 23 sensitive plant species.

Demand for fish and wildlife will continue to exceed supply. The current habitat improvement program includes, among others: willow planting, juniper thinning, aspen treatment, and stream structures.

Range

Approximately 1,332,610 acres (53 percent of the Forest) are suitable for livestock grazing. The remaining 1,195,319 acres are steep hillsides, shallow soil areas, and rock outcrops. These areas are not suitable for long-term livestock grazing, but are used considerably by big game animals.

Grazing management is a cooperative effort between the Forest Service and the grazing permittees. The Forest issues grazing permits that specify the type and number of livestock and the season of use. Allotment management plans outline the use and development of each allotment on a long term basis; operating plans outline annual direction. Allotments are inspected by the Forest Service for use, condition, and compliance with grazing permits, the Allotment Management Plan, and the Annual Operating Plan. The permittee is responsible for herding, salting and doctoring his livestock and for maintaining improvements on his allotment.

The range condition classification for the suitable range indicates that 16 percent is good; 47 percent is fair; and 37 percent is poor. The trend for good condition ranges is generally static while the trend is usually upward on fair and poor condition ranges.

There are 18 sheep permittees grazing 59,089 head of sheep, and 199 cattle permittees grazing 53,688 head of cattle on the Forest. It has been determined that the Forest can provide approximately 300,000 - 310,000 AUMs use, in most years, in coordination with other uses of the Forest. The current management objective, at the beginning of the planning horizon, will be 301,583 AUMs. The Forest provides most of its grazing opportunities during the standard grazing season of June 1 to September 30. However, there is some fall and spring grazing and some winter grazing for sheep.

The demand to graze cattle will remain high and exceed available supply. Demand for sheep grazing may decline but over the long-term it should stabilize and may eventually increase.

Timber

The 1963 timber inventory identified approximately 1,003,350 acres of woodland cover type on the Forest outside the Jarbidge Wilderness and the Wheeler Peak Scenic Area. This acreage included roughly 29,100 acres of productive Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, and limber pine located in isolated stands at higher elevations, and almost 530,250 acres of pinyon-juniper considered to be potentially manageable for the production of a variety of miscellaneous forest products. The remaining forested area, about 444,000 acres, was comprised of noncommercial stands of Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, and limber pine, and pinyon-juniper areas which at the time were considered to have little if any potential for the production of forest products. Because of limited access, low productivity, the scattered and isolated location of the stands, and the absence of milling and processing facilities in the area, all timber on the Forest is classed as unsuitable for industrial wood production.

The public's consumptive use of wood products from the Humboldt National Forest is generally miscellaneous forest products consisting of fuelwood, Christmas trees, pinenuts, post and poles. Demand for fuelwood, in comparison to other wood products, has seen the largest increase in recent years. About 4,400 cords of fuelwood are harvested annually from July through October. Approximately 600 posts are cut from juniper stands on the Forest each year generally for local use by ranchers. Approximately 2,000 Christmas trees are harvested annually during November and December with pinyon pine the dominant species harvested. The supply of pinenuts depends on the pinyon pine cone crop which can vary from a few thousand pounds to a bumper crop of 100,000 pounds or more per year. Bumper crops usually occur every 3 to 5 years. Demand for the Forest's products is good. Commercial demand for pinenuts exceeds supply despite the production levels achieved. Although public use of miscellaneous wood products should increase, this expected use will be moderated by the increasing costs associated with acquiring these products.

Water

The Forest yields approximately 1.4 million acre-feet of water annually. Much of the water produced by the Forest is used for downstream irrigation. Yield varies with annual precipitation and is dependent on the annual snowpack. Spring snowmelt contributes the majority of runoff volume. Opportunities for water yield augmentation on a large scale are extremely limited. Vegetative manipulations in sagebrush-grass types may produce small, localized effects; however, these would probably be undetectable downstream.

The Humboldt National Forest manages mountain watersheds to produce clean water while providing for the production of woodland products, recreation, grazing, and wildlife. The Forest has three municipal watersheds: West Ward supplying the town of Ruth and Kimberly; Duck Creek supplying the town of McGill, and Bear Creek supplying the town of Jarbidge.

Demand for water exceeds the available supply. Part of the imbalance between supply and demand is due to the timing of runoff. The demand for storage and transmission facilities to better use spring runoff will increase.

Minerals

The Humboldt National Forest is almost entirely open to mineral entry and leasing. Approximately 97.2 percent of the area is open to mineral entry, and 97.4 percent is open to leasing.

Primary locatable minerals on the Forest are gold, silver, barite, molybdenum, tungsten, and copper. Leasable minerals include oil, gas, coal, geothermals, and phosphate. There are approximately 20,000 mining claims on about 421,000 acres of the Forest. Approximately 304,159 acres have been leased for oil and gas, and 3,341 acres have been leased for geothermal resources.

Extensive deposits of common variety minerals such as sand, gravel, and building stone exist on the Forest. Demand for these minerals is low. Although there are occasional large sales of sand and gravel for local highway projects, the Forest Service is usually the largest user of these materials.

Growth in activities related to minerals and energy during the past 5 years has been at the rate of approximately 20 percent per year. Exploration activity for hard rock minerals such as gold, silver and barite is expected to continue to increase, but at a more moderate rate, perhaps 5 to 10 percent per year. As mineral exploration companies evaluate targets on National Forest System Lands during the next five to ten years, the number of operating plans should peak and then level off as targets are rejected.

Based on present knowledge and concepts of oil/gas formation and entrapment, few wells will likely be drilled on the Forest. However, National Forest System Lands will be leased, and geophysical studies such as seismic exploration will occur. Presently, the largest impact from leasing has been seismic operations. There are no areas with high potential for oil/gas accumulation, due to the mountainous, structurally complex and faulted nature of the ranges which comprise forest lands.

CHAPTER IV - ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

DIRECT AND INDIRECT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Environmental consequences are the anticipated effects of applying management practices to land areas. Consequences vary for each alternative because different mixes of practices produce different levels of resource outputs.

Environmental consequences of implementing the alternatives are described in physical, biological, social, and economic terms. These consequences are both direct and indirect. Direct effects occur at the same time and place as the initial management activity. They may be measured by how they change the predicted activity or output from the present level of activity as measured by the Current Management Alternative. Indirect effects often result from interaction between Forest resources and management activities. They occur either later in time or at a different location, but are nevertheless foreseeable.

The following is a comparison of effects by each resource.

Recreation

The capacity and service level provided at campgrounds and picnic areas will decrease under the Current Budget (Alt. D). Under the 1985 RPA (Alt. F) the number of facilities will increase and quality will improve. Under the Constrained (Alt. E) and Non-Market (Alt. J) services will be reduced and sites and facilities will deteriorate. *The Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A)*, PNV (Alt. C), Current Management (Alt. H) and Preferred (Alt. K) will maintain current facility capacity. The Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and PNV (Alt. C), and the Preferred (Alt. K) will manage all sites at the full service level.

The Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) provide for no reconstruction of recreation sites resulting in the most site deterioration. The other alternatives provide for the reconstruction of deteriorating facilities. The 1985 RPA (Alt. F) and Market (Alt. I) provide for construction of new recreational facilities.

The Forest has sufficient developed site capacity to meet anticipated demand until the year 2000 if present facilities are adequately maintained and rehabilitated. The Preferred (Alt. K) would do this. At year 2000, the need for additional facilities will be reevaluated. The 1985 RPA (Alt. F) would provide additional opportunities for developed site recreation by adding capacity above anticipated demand. The other alternatives would not meet demand and the Current Budget (Alt. D), Constrained Budget (Alt. E) and Current Management (Alt. H) allow present facilities to deteriorate.

Use of recreational residences and organization sites is expected to increase under all alternatives. Other recreational special uses will be allowed under all alternatives where there is a public need, the use is compatible with other uses, and private lands are unavailable to fill the need.

Dispersed recreation opportunities and services will decline in the PNV (Alt. C), Current Budget (Alt. D), Constrained Budget (Alt. E) and Market (Alt. I) and remain at the present level under the 1985 RPA (Alt. F) and Current Management (Alt. H). Opportunities and services will increase under the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and Market (Alt. J). The Preferred (Alt. K) will offer increased services at a higher quality. All alternatives are able to meet demand.

The trail system will deteriorate from inadequate maintenance under the Current Budget (Alt. D), Constrained Budget (Alt. E) and Market (Alt. I). The Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Current Management (Alt. H), and Non-Market (Alt. J), and the Preferred (Alt. K) will increase trail mileage slightly. The PNV (Alt. C) and the Preferred (Alt. K) will increase trail maintenance on the existing trail system.

The Preferred (Alt. K) will improve opportunities for dispersed recreation. Information systems will be improved, present trails will be brought up to standard, and trailhead facilities for both summer and winter use will be added at appropriate locations.

Areas available for use by motor vehicles will decrease in proportion to the amount of use allocated to wilderness. Little new road construction is planned under any alternative. The Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) will result in less motorized use due to the lack of maintenance. Alternatives allowing the most wilderness will result in the least impacts from on and off-road vehicle use. Proper management can minimize damage to other resources in Market (Alt. I) since it makes the most area available for ORV use. The least damage will occur under the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), and Non-Market (Alt. J) because less area will be available for ORV use and enforcement of regulations will be intensive. Effects of the other alternatives will fall between the two extremes.

The Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), and Market (Alt. I) set the highest visual quality objectives followed by the Current Management (Alt. H), Preferred (Alt. K), and Current Budget (Alt. D), respectively. The Constrained Budget (Alt. E), 1985 RPA (Alt. F) and Non-Market (Alt. J) would have the least initial change in visual quality objectives. All alternatives will meet prescribed visual quality objectives except Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E).

The Current Budget (Alt. D), Constrained Budget (Alt. E) and Current Management (Alt. H) do not increase the cultural resources program beyond examining surface disturbing activities for cultural resources. The other alternatives provide for an increased program that includes a Forest inventory to locate cultural resources. All alternatives direct that an archaeological review be made before any site disturbing activities are initiated. The Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), Non-Market (Alt. J), and Preferred Alternative (Alt. K) direct that areas identified as having high potential for archaeological sites be inventoried by 1990.

Wilderness

Wilderness designation allows uses specified in the Wilderness Act of 1964, including nonmotorized recreation, construction of trails, livestock grazing, and maintenance of existing water developments. Areas not designated as wilderness are open to a wide range of resource developing activities.

Each of the nine alternatives recommends a different mix of roadless areas to be designated as wilderness. The recommendations range from 0 acres in the Market (Alt. I) to 1,742,728 acres (all roadless areas) in the Non-Market (Alt. J). All alternatives recognize the existing Jarbidge Wilderness and maintain it.

Acres of wilderness designation proposed under each of the nine alternatives are:

Significant Wilderness/Commodity Emphasis (Alt. A)	1,233,676
Present Net Value (Alt. C)	713,786
Current Budget (Alt. D)	330,278
Constrained Budget (Alt. E)	64,667
1985 RPA Update (Alt. F)	215,351
Current Management (Alt. H)	483,411
Market Opportunities (Alt. I)	64,667
Non-Market Opportunities (Alt. J)	1,807,395
Preferred Alternative (Alt. K)	332,967

Wildlife

Under each alternative threatened or endangered species will be managed so that current habitat levels will increase. Bald eagle and peregrine falcon habitat will be maintained at existing levels under all alternatives.

Lahontan cutthroat trout habitat will be increased under all alternatives with the intent being to delist the species as endangered.

Dolly Varden trout habitat will be maintained at existing levels under all alternatives. Bonneville cutthroat trout habitat will be maintained at current levels in the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), Current Budget (Alt. D), Constrained Budget (Alt. E), and Market (Alt. I) alternatives. Opportunities to develop a cooperative effort to increase Bonneville cutthroat distribution into historic habitats and improve existing habitats through direct improvements will be available in the PNV (Alt. C), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Non-Market (Alt. J), and Preferred (Alt. K) alternatives.

The Current Management (Alt. H), Market (Alt. I), and Preferred (Alt. K) result in the maintenance or slight increase in the habitat capability for most management indicator species (MIS) through the planning period. Limited habitat improvement work will be accomplished under Current Management (Alt. H) and Market (Alt. I) however, it will not be sufficient to maintain the habitat capability for deer which shows a very slight decline as a result of pinyon-juniper invasion and loss of forage due to wildfire. The Non-Market (Alt. J), 1984 RPA (Alt. F), and PNV (Alt. C) result in the greatest improvement in the habitat capability for MIS.

The most significant improvement in quality of habitat takes place under the 1985 RPA (Alt. F), PNV (Alt. C), and Non-Market (Alt. J). The level of resource coordination and direct habitat improvements in these alternatives is nearly twice that of the Current Budget (Alt. D).

The quality of aquatic habitats will decline slightly under the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) as a result of reduced ability to coordinate resources and initiate improvement work. Aquatic habitats will be maintained under the Market (Alt. I). The Preferred (Alt. K) provides an improvement in aquatic habitats as coordinated management is combined with limited direct improvements. The PNV (Alt. C) and 1985 RPA (Alt. F) provide the greatest opportunity to improve aquatic habitats. Riparian areas will be managed to maximize their potential vegetative productivity under the PNV (Alt. C), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), and Non-Market (Alt. J). Riparian areas will be slightly improved under the Preferred (Alt. K) and maintained under the Wilderness (Alt. A) and Market (Alt. I).

The present condition of winter ranges will not be maintained under Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E). The overall quality and quantity of deer winter range in the Preferred (Alt. K) will be improved. The Present Net Value (Alt. C), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), and Non-Market (Alt. J) result in a moderate improvement in winter ranges.

Four alternatives result in an improvement in deer numbers over the current situation. In addition, only two alternatives, Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) result in lower numbers than the current situation. The 1985 RPA (Alt. F) comes nearest to meeting Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) objectives.

Range

Under all alternatives but the Preferred (Alt. K), Animal Unit Months (AUMs) would drop for the first period. In the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) the decreases in AUMs would stabilize somewhat after the third period, where the permit obligation and grazing capacity reach equilibrium. In the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), Current Management (Alt. H) and the Non-Market Opportunity (Alt. J), AUM numbers would reach the lowest level during the second period and then gradually increase again; but they would not reach the initial 1986 figure. In the Present Net Value (Alt. C), and the Market Opportunity (Alt. I), AUMs would exceed implementation numbers after the fourth or fifth period. AUMs would increase and exceed implementation numbers after the second period in the 1985 RPA (Alt. F). In the Preferred (Alt. K), AUMs increase in the second period and decrease in the third period slightly below implementation numbers. However, by 2000, AUMs increase over implementation and continue a steady though slight increase.

The 1985 RPA (Alt. F) provides the highest percentage of land in satisfactory ecological condition with the Preferred (Alt. K) following closely behind. The Constrained Budget (Alt. E) shows a loss in satisfactory ecological condition below present levels. This is due to the shortage of personnel on the Ranger Districts to properly manage the range resource.

Wild horses are managed according to approved territory management plans so the alternatives do not change the management direction on individual territories. However, the Preferred (Alt. K) provides for elimination of the Mount Moriah and Murphy Wash (South Snake) territories because of the absence of wild horses.

In the 1985 RPA (Alt. F) concentrated efforts would be made to control and eradicate noxious weeds in all three priority levels. In the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), Market Opportunity (Alt. I) and Preferred (Alt. K) concentrated efforts would be made to control noxious weeds in Priority 1, with spot control efforts in Priority 2 and 3. In the Current Budget (Alt. D), Current Management (Alt. H), and Non-Market (Alt. J) effort would be made to control noxious weeds in Priority 1. In the Constrined Budget (Alt. E), only new outbreaks in Priority 1 would be treated. A list of the priority noxious weeds can be found on page IV-18 of the FEIS.

Timber

Current demand for fuelwood is 4,400 cords per year. This demand is expected to increase in the future. All alternatives except Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and PNV (Alt. C) meet this projected demand. The 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Market (Alt. I) and Preferred (Alt. K) provide additional supplies of fuelwood for personal and commercial use.

There is a decrease in pinenuts harvested for Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), and Non-Market (Alt. J) because of the large delineation of roadless areas to wilderness. The other alternatives vary little in their production of pinenuts.

The large designation of roadless areas to wilderness in the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C) and Non-Market (Alt. J) will also affect the production of Christmas trees and cultural timber stand improvement practices associated with it.

The production of all timber products will be at a minimum level in the Constrained Budget (Alt. E).

Water and Soil

The Forest goal for water quality management is to meet and/or exceed State standards and to maintain sediment yield at levels which will not seriously injure instream uses. These goals are more stringent than existing State water quality standards. At present, it is estimated that 69 percent of the water yield from the Forest meets the Forest's goal for water quality. However, 100 percent of the water meets or exceeds minimal State water quality standards. The 1985 RPA (Alt. F) will improve water quality most rapidly with Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), Current Management (Alt. H), Non-Market (Alt. J) and the Preferred (Alt. K) providing for moderate increases in water quality over the planning period. The level of input for soil and water conservation practices will vary by alternative, being greatest under 1985 RPA (Alt. F) with moderate levels obtained in the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), and Market (Alt. I).

Under the Current Management (Alt. H), Non-Market (Alt. J), and Preferred (Alt. K), only major projects will be reviewed. Identification of soil and water conservation measures will be limited under the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E), with a possibility existing for some watershed condition deterioration if either of these alternatives is implemented. Funding for inventory of soil and water resources is highest under the 1985 (Alt. F) with limited funding available under the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) Alternatives. A soil resource inventory (order 3) will be completed on the Forest by 1995 under all alternatives except the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E).

Minerals

Locatables:

Predicting the effects of alternatives on locatable mineral activities is speculative. However, there are some factors which would have direct bearing on locatable mineral activities.

One of the primary factors affecting locatable mineral activities is the amount of land open to exercise the mining laws. When an area goes to wilderness, it is usually closed to mineral entry on the date it becomes wilderness. Therefore, those alternatives which propose the largest amounts of wilderness would have the most negative effect on locatable mineral activities. Wilderness designation does recognize valid existing rights; however, those rights must be verified by a Forest Service mineral examiner and reclamation requirements are stringent. Those alternatives which stress the production of commodities or market value outputs would be conducive to mineral development and have the greatest impact in the environment.

Overall, demand and prices of metals/commodities are expected to gradually increase so that minerals activities will slowly increase. This increase may affect the negative effect of withdrawal of lands from mineral entry as proposed by the more moderate alternatives.

Energy Minerals (Leasables):

The alternative which proposes no additional wilderness land withdrawals, Market (Alt. I), would allow the maximum development of leasable minerals. Under this alternative, leasable activities would remain at the present level. The Non-Market (Alt. J) proposes the most wilderness withdrawals and would likely decrease leasable activities by 50 percent. The Preferred (Alt. K) proposes approximately 268,300 acres of wilderness withdrawals. Since these areas have low oil/gas potential, the effect on leasable activities is expected to be slight.

LANDS

Corridors:

The Forest has worked with representatives of the Western Utilities Group to identify future needs for utility corridors. All but one of the corridors are along existing utility rights-of-way or transportation corridors. Field studies have been made to determine if the requested corridors are feasible. In some instances they were reduced in size due to topographic constraints. Only one requested corridor was rejected. This occurred when the Bureau of Land Management determined alternate routes where preferrable. Existing and potential corridors do not vary by alternative. Environmental consequences of these corridors are minor. A corridor map can be found in the management area maps that accompany the Forest Plan.

Special Use Permits:

The impacts of permitted special uses are not expected to vary among alternatives. The differences between alternatives include the Forest Service's ability to properly administer permits, and how rapidly new permits will be allowed to be implemented. The Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) pose the greatest risk of adverse environmental impacts because of inadequate funding to properly administer permits. The Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and Non-Market (Alt. J) best reduce the risk of adverse impacts by restricting the number of permits issued and providing strong permit administration. The Present Net Value (Alt. C), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Current Management (Alt. H), Market (Alt. I), and the Preferred (Alt. K) provide for increased numbers of permits with adequate permit administration, and represent the middle-of-the-road position.

The rate of acquisition of rights-of-way for use in management of resources varies among alternatives. However, the overall environmental impacts are approximately the same for all alternatives and relatively minor. The Forest's long-range Rights-of-Way Plan notes 691 rights-of-way cases needed on the Forest. Under the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) the lack of public rights-of-way will result in a slightly increased impact due to concentrated public use on existing Forest access. Other alternatives provide greater access to the National Forest.

Because of increasing interest in development of hydroelectric power, the Forest can expect, under all alternatives, applications for hydropower permits on larger perennial streams. Alternatives with high wilderness emphasis, such as the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and Non-Market (Alt. J) will restrict this use more than other alternatives. The Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) will have the greatest risk of adverse environmental impacts because of inadequte financing to properly evaluate instream flow requirements, other impacts and administration of permits.

Land Exchanges:

The Forest is negotiating for three large land exchanges involving 15,000 acres of National Forest System land. Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) will stop or impede progress on these and other exchanges. The other alternatives will facilitate this process.

FACILITIES

All alternatives except one, provide for the adequate maintenance, repair, and replacement of all essential buildings and associated water and sewer systems throughout the entire planning period. Under all the alternatives, except the Constrained Budget (Alt. E), all essential facilities will be brought into compliance with and maintained to appropriate health and safety standards. The only difference between these alternatives is the timing of replacing warehouse facilities in Elko. Under the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and 1985 RPA (Alt. F), the warehouse facilities will be replaced starting in 1989 and completed in 1992. Under the PNV (Alt. C), Current Budget (Alt. D), Current Management (Alt. H), Market (Alt. I), Non-Market (Alt. J) and Preferred (Alt. K), the warehouse facilities will be replaced between 1991 and 1995. Some non-essential buildings and facilities will be removed or disposed of under all these alternatives.

The Constrained Budget (Alt. E) differs from the other alternatives in that very few facilities will be needed. Only those few buildings needed for custodial management will be brought into compliance with and maintained to appropriate health and safety standards. No new warehousing facilities would be built in Elko under this alternative. Most of the buildings and facilities would badly deteriorate under this alternative and would eventually have to be removed or disposed of.

Under the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and 1985 RPA (Alt. F), the road maintenance program provides for the adequate maintenance of the arterial and collector road system and those portions of the local road system that are essential to resource activities. Under these two alternatives, any road related environmental problems will be corrected. Portions of the system will receive little maintenance under these two alternatives, but few roads will deteriorate to the point of becoming impassable.

Under the PNV (Alt. C), Current Budget (Alt. D), Current Management (Alt. H), Market (Alt. I), Non-Market (Alt. J), and Preferred (Alt. K), the road maintenance program provides for the adequate maintenance of the arterial and collector system and those local roads critical to resource activities.

Many of the local roads under these alternatives will receive very little maintenance. Some of these roads will slowly deteriorate and create road erosion and other environmental problems. Most of these environmental problems will not be corrected and a portion of these roads will eventually become impassable.

Under the Constrained Budget (Alt. E), the road system will deteriorate. Road maintenance efforts will be reduced and will emphasize keeping the arterial and collector roads open. User safety and comfort will decrease and road related erosion and environmental problems will increase. Few of these environmental problems will be corrected. Most of the roads will receive no maintenance and some of the roads will deteriorate to the point that they become impassable.

The 1985 RPA (Alt. F) provides for the greatest number of miles of road construction. Under this alternative an average of 15.6 miles per year of arterial, collector or local roads will be constructed or reconstructed starting in 1986. The number of miles of road construction is considerably less under the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A). This alternative provides for an average of 7.8 miles per year of arterial, collector or local road construction or reconstruction starting in 1986. The PNV (Alt. C) provides for an average of 5.5 miles per year of arterial and collector road reconstruction starting in 1991. The Current Management (Alt. H), Market (Alt. I), Non-Market (Alt. J) and Preferred (Alt. K) all have very similar numbers of miles of road construction. All four of these alternatives provide for 5.0 miles/year of arterial and collector road reconstruction starting in 1991. These four alternatives also provide for small, but differing, amounts of local road construction and reconstruction. Under the Current Budget (Alt. D), 5.0 miles per year of arterial and collector road reconstruction will occur starting in 1996. Under the Constrained Budget (Alt. E), there is no road construction or reconstruction at all.

The majority of bridge replacements under the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and 1985 RPA (Alt. F) are scheduled for replacement at the Forest level. A few bridge replacements will still be accomplished through the Regional Bridge Replacement Program for these two alternatives. For all other alternatives, bridge replacements will only be accomplished through the Regional Bridge Replacement Program.

FIRE PROTECTION

Fire suppression capability to protect life and property is provided under every alternative except Constrained Budget (Alt. E). All alternatives also provide for improved fire protection by coordinating efforts with State and other Federal agencies and emphasizing fire prevention.

Large areas of continuous even aged fuel will continue to be emphasized for treatment. This treatment will result in increased outputs in grazing AUMs, increased wildlife habitat diversity, decreased fire suppression costs, decreased fire average size and decreased negative effects from wildfire. Acres treated are increased in alternatives that emphasize commodity outputs. The base level of treatment is the 2,000 acres per year that is presently occurring. The 1985 RPA (Alt. F) and Market (Alt. I) will treat fuels faster than current rates. Constrained Budget (Alt. E), Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), and Non-Market (Alt. J) alternatives treat fuels at the slowest rate. As a result, the potential for large, destructive wildfires is greatest under the Constrained Budget (Alt. E), Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), and Non-Market (Alt. J) and the least under the 1985 RPA (Alt. F) and Market (Alt. I) Alternatives.

Fuel loading, an important element in wildfires, varies little by alternative. Prescribed fire from natural, unplanned ignitions will be used in all roadless or wilderness areas to maintain the natural ecosystem under all alternatives. Appropriate suppression response will be made in other areas on the Forest based on management area direction. Under all alternatives, the Forest's use of prescribed fire must comply with guidelines for smoke management, and will be in agreement with state and county standards for air quality.

ECONOMIC EFFECTS

The Humboldt National Forest is required to consider economic efficiency as a basic principal of planning in the formulation of alternatives, in estimating effects of alternatives, and in evaluating those alternatives.

The main criterion in economic efficiency analysis is present net value (PNV). It is defined as discounted benefits less discounted costs, including only those outputs to which monetary values can be assigned. All alternatives examined in that manner were found to be economically efficient.

For comparison, two discounted rates were used. The first was 4 percent, the second was 7 1/8 percent. The highest PNV with a 4 percent discount is the Non-Market (Alt. J) Alternative. It is followed by the PNV (Alt. C), Current Budget (Alt. D), Wilderness Commodity Emphasis (Alt. A), Current Management (Alt. H), Market Opportunities (Alt. I), Preferred (Alt. K), Constrained Budget (Alt. E), and 1985 RPA (Alt. F).

An intangible value called Net Public Benefit (NPB) enters into any economic analysis in reviewing alternatives. It is defined as the overall value to the nation of all benefits less all associated inputs and costs, regardless if they can be quantitatively valued. It means that some things don't have monetary values but must enter the decision making process because of their intrinsic values to people. Some examples of such benefits include public safety, visual quality, concern for future generations and diversity of resources. Such NPB values may cause a decision to be made that varies to some extent from a decision based solely on PNV.

SOCIAL EFFECTS

Because the Humboldt National Forest is a fragmented Forest with several separate units, the economic and social impact of the lands associated with it are also fragmented.

The Forest is required to examine impacts to employment, income, and population changes in proportion to their significance. The objective of the impact analysis is to compare the socio-economic variables for future conditions for all alternatives considered. In order to be considered significant, a change of five percent or more in employment, income, or population had to occur. There were no significant impacts to be projected in any of the nine alternatives considered.

It is recognized that the planning process examines impacts on communities and masks the impact on individuals. The Current Budget (Alt. D), Constrained Budget (Alt E), and Non-Market (Alt. I) Alternatives could have some negative effects on individuals associated with the range industries at certain local communities.

Two separate payments are made by the Federal government to the states and counties each year based on lands administered by the Forest Service or based on Forest Service management actions. First, payments in lieu of taxes are made based on acres of land in Federal ownership. This is to compensate the states for taxes lost as a result of Federal lands not on state tax rolls. The amount paid is constant between alternatives and is based on Congressional appropriations. In 1980, the five counties with lands administered by the Humboldt National Forest received a total of $451,656 in payments. It should be noted that some of those funds were generated by lands administered by other Federal agencies.

The 25 percent fund provides that 25 percent of all Forest receipts from timber, grazing, special uses, minerals, and recreation is returned to the counties wherein they were earned. That money goes to the roads and schools. The Market Opportunities (Alt. I) provides the highest return. In descending order, the alternatives are: Market Opportunities (Alt. I), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Preferred (Alt. K), Current Budget (Alt. D), Current Management (Alt. H), PNV (Alt. C), Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), Non-Market (Alt. J), and Constrained Budget (Alt. E).

The Forest policy of equal opportunity for use and employment for all persons will continue under all alternatives. Since the 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Market Opportunities (Alt. I), and Preferred Alternative (Alt. K) provide more opportunity for jobs, the chances are best that they would provide more opportunities for minority and low income persons and groups.

IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

Some irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources will occur under all alternatives.

An irreversible commitment of resources is one that results from actions altering an area such that it is prevented from returning to its natural condition for an extended period of time, or one that utilizes non-renewable resources, such as cultural resources and minerals. Examples are extraction of oil, natural gas, and gravel.

The key to irreversible consequences in all management actions for the Humboldt National Forest is the amount of soil lost because of project activity. Road and building construction create the most impact on the Forest's soil and vegetative resources.

Irretrievable commitments of resources include lost production or lost use of renewable resources. The opportunity to use the resource is foregone during the period of time it is committed to other uses or periods of non-use. Two examples are wilderness, and the difference between yield and the maximum production level of a resource. The commitment is irretrievable rather than irreversible because declassification of wilderness by Congress and cost-efficient harvesting of a resource would make other uses of these resources possible. Only the loss sustained during the period of unavailability would be irretrievable.

ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED

Implementation of any of the alternatives will result in some adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided. However, the application of constraints (standards and guidelines) is intended to limit the extent and duration of these effects.

Management prescriptions were designed to provide outputs, goods, and services within the constraints of maintaining the sustained yield of recreation, water, timber, forage, and wildlife without impairing the long-term productivity of the land.

Mitigation measures included in the management area prescriptions in Chapter IV of the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan are intended to minimize the adverse unavoidable effects. There are, however, some adverse effects that cannot be avoided in the nine alternatives. Some of the key ones are summarized as follows:

- Unavoidable vegetation loss, soil compaction and streambank damage from construction and reconstruction activity.
- Visual character changes of the Forest scene from management activities including road construction and recreation special uses, and mineral and energy development.
- Short-term displacement of wildlife during construction and mineral development activities.
- Temporary and local reduction of air quality from dust raised by construction and mineral activities.

The intensity of these adverse effects may be mitigated to acceptable levels, but they cannot be avoided entirely.

The greatest potential for adverse effects that cannot be avoided for watershed deterioration comes in the Current Budget (Alt. D), Constrained Budget (Alt. E), and Market Opportunities (Alt. I).

The 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Current Management (Alt. H), and Preferred (Alt. K) reduce adverse effects most effectively.

SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

Management of the Forest is a complex venture pitting the present demand for goods and services against the need to maintain long-term productivity of the resource base. The proposed action and alternatives to it all meet the requirement of the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960 to provide for the "achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level annual or periodic output of the various renewable resources of the National Forests without impairment of the productivity of the land." The long-term productivity of the land is maintained or improved in all alternatives while producing outputs, goods, and services throughout the planning period.

The Market Opportunities (Alt. I) has the highest level of short-term uses, as reflected by acres of vegetative treatment for wildlife, range and timber management. That alternative generates higher levels of short-term adverse consequences, such as reduced air quality, and increased visual impacts, fire hazard, soil loss, and reduced water quality. The Non-Market (Alt. J) has the lowest level of short-term uses and, therefore, the lowest level of short-term adverse consequences.

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KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

Many of the terms used in Forest planning are often abbreviated in tables and text to conserve space. Those abbreviations are listed below.

AAs	Analysis Areas
AC	Acre(s)
ALT	Alternative
AMS	Analysis of the Management Situation
APHIS	Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
AUM	Animal Unit Month
BMP	Best Management Practice
Bd. Ft.	Board Foot
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BTU	British Thermal Unit
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CETA	Comprehensive Employment Training Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
Cds	Cords
CRM	Cultural Resource Management
Cu. Ft.	Cubic Foot
dbh	Diameter Breast High
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FIL	Fire Intensity Level
FIS	Fiscal
FS	Forest Service
FSH	Forest Service Handbook
FSM	Forest Service Manual
FSM	Full Service Management
FY	Fiscal Year
G.A.	General Administration
ICOS	Issues, Concerns and Opportunities
IDT	Interdisciplinary Team
KGRA	Known Geothermal Resource Area
Lb(s)	Pounds
LRSA	Long Run Sustained Yield
M	Thousand
MAX	Maximum
MBF	Thousand Board Feet
MCF	Thousand Cubic Feet
MDBM	Mount Diablo Baseline Meridian
MIS	Management Indicator Species
MKT	Market
MM	Million
MMBF	Million Board Feet
MMCF	Million Cubic Feet
MRVDs	Thousand Recreation Visitor Days
MVP	Minimum Viable Population
NEPA	Natural Environmental Policy Act
NDOW	Nevada Department of Wildlife
NDF	Nevada Division of Forestry
NFMA	National Forest Management Act
NPB	Net Public Benefit
NRT	National Recreation Trail
OMP	Operation Maintenance and Protection
ORVs	Off-Road Vehicles
PAOT	Person at one time
PAR. RET.	Partial Retention
PILT	Payments in Lieu of Taxes
PL	Public Law
PNV	Present Net Value
PVB	Present Value of Benefits
PVC	Present Value of Costs

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS (CONT.)

RA - Range Analysis
RARE II - Roadless Area Review and Evaluation No. Two
RIM - Recreation Information Management
RPA - Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resource Planning Act
REC - Recreation
Retent - Retention
RMOGA - The Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association
RNA - Research Natural Area
ROS - Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
ROW - Rights-of-Way
RSM - Reduced Service Management
RVDs - Recreation Visitor Days

SAOT - Skiers at One Time
SCSEP - Senior Community Service Employment Program
SHPO - State Historic Preservation Officer
SP - Species
SPM - Semi Primitive Motorized
SPNM - Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized
S&W - Soil & Water

(T) - Soil Loss Tolerance Value

TCPU - Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities

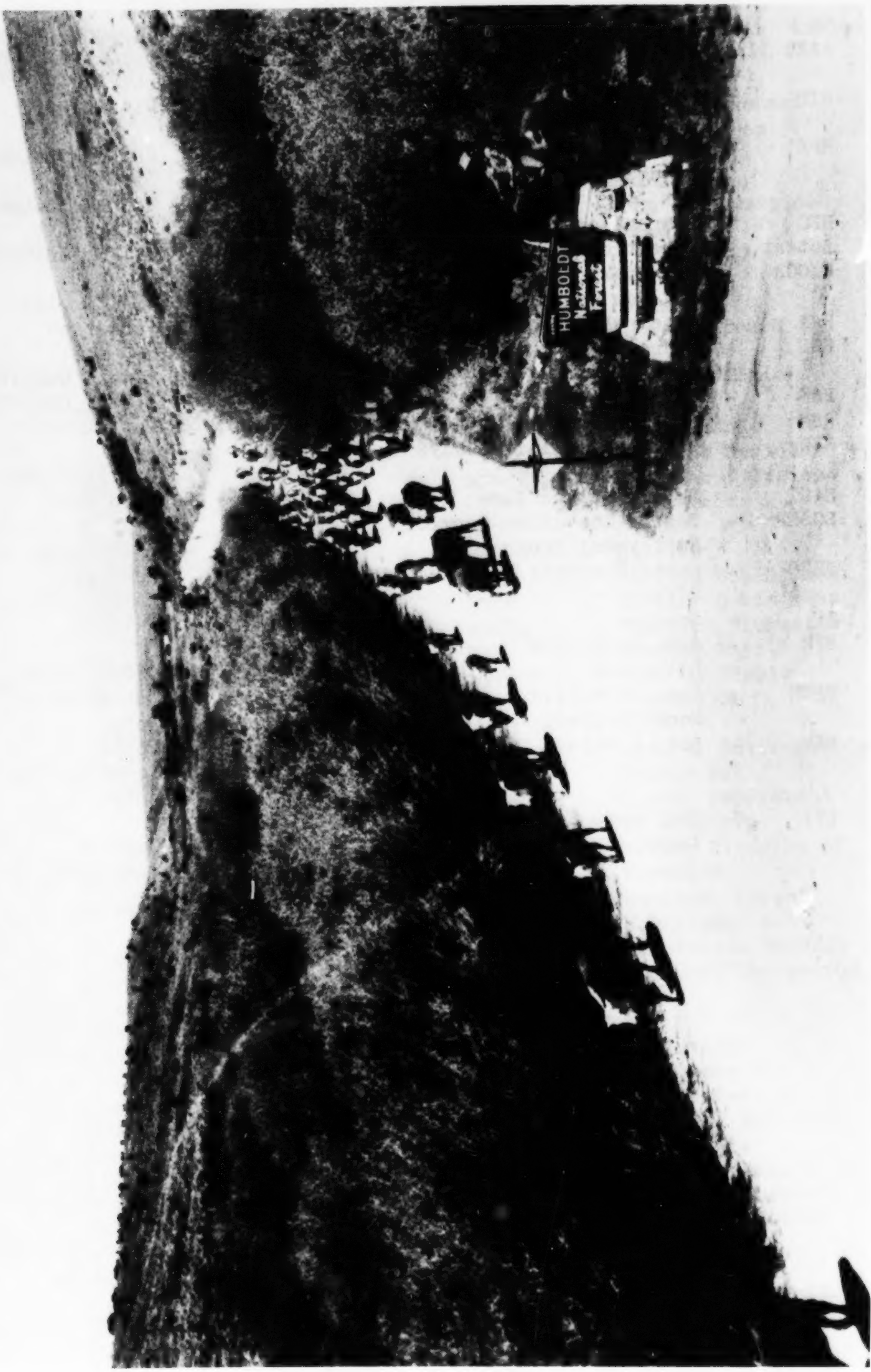
USC - United States Code
USDA - United States Department of Agriculture

VIS - Visitor Information Service
VQ - Visual Quality
VQO - Visual Quality Objective

WFUDs - Wildlife and Fish User Days
WHT - Wild Horse Territory
WILDER - Wilderness
Wildf - Wildlife

YACC - Young Adult Conservation Corp.
YCC - Youth Conservation Corp.

ZOI - Zone of Influence



HUMBOLDT
National
Forest

1.

Purpose and Need

11

CHAPTER I

PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

A. INTRODUCTION

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan contains information analyzed in the preparation of the Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Service's Preferred Alternative). The Preferred Alternative is one of 9 alternatives evaluated in the DEIS. The Forest Plan covers a 50-year planning period and will be revised as often as necessary, but at least every 15 years.

Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, and the implementing regulations of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). (USC, 1970, US CEQ, 1978. USDA, FS, 1982).

Planning is conducted under authority of the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960 and the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resource Planning Act of 1974 (RPA), as amended by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). An assessment of the proposed action's environmental consequences is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The purpose of the Environmental Impact Statement is to disclose the significant physical, biological, economic, and social effects on the human environment of the Forest Service's Preferred Alternative and a range of alternatives to the proposal. The net public benefits that reflect the long-term value to the Nation of benefits less costs measured by both quantitative and qualitative criteria are considered. The issues, concerns, and opportunities identified through the public involvement process are addressed in the EIS.

The Humboldt National Forest is one of 154 National Forests [1] involved in the same planning process following the same national directives. The total National Forest planning effort is three-tiered: National, Regional, and Forest levels.

The national level deals primarily with National Forest planning, policy making, funding, monitoring, and legislative activities. The regional role is one of clarifying and interpreting policy, providing additional direction and coordination, as well as providing expertise upon request.

Individual National Forests are charged with Forest land and resource management, within national and regional direction, from a local perspective.

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[1] Some of the Forests are combined for planning purposes resulting in 121 different Forest Plans.

B. PLANNING PROCESS AND LINKAGES

Forest planning takes place within the overall planning framework structured by the regulations of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act, as amended by the National Forest Management Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act. The planning process is based on the 14 planning principles stated in the NFMA regulations (36 CFR 219.1). These are:

1. Establishment of goals and objectives for multiple-use and sustained yield management of renewable resources without impairment of the productivity of the land.

2. Consideration of the relative values of all renewable resources, including the relationship of nonrenewable resources, such as minerals, to renewable resources

3. Recognition that the National Forests are ecosystems and their management for goods and services requires an awareness and consideration of the interrelationships among plants, animals, soil, water, air, and other environmental factors within such ecosystems.

4. Protection and, where appropriate, improvement of the quality of renewable resources.

5. Preservation of important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our National heritage.

6. Protection and preservation of the inherent right of freedom of American Indians to believe, express, and exercise their traditional religions.

7. Provisions for the safe use and enjoyment of the Forest resources by the public.

8. Protection, through ecologically compatible means, of all forest and rangeland resources from depredations by forest and rangeland pests.

9. Coordination with the land and resource planning efforts of other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and Indian tribes.

10. Use of a systematic, interdisciplinary approach to ensure coordination and integration of planning activities for multiple use management.

11. Early and frequent public participation.

12. Establishment of quantitative and qualitative standards and guidelines for land and resource planning and management.

13. Management of National Forest System lands in a manner that is sensitive to economic efficiency.

14. Responsive to changing conditions of land and other resources and to changing social and economic demands of the American people.

Forest Service planning is a continuous, iterative process carried out on three levels:

1. National - RPA Assessment and Program.
2. Regional - Regional Guide.
3. Local - Forest Land and Resource Management Plans for the National Forest System lands; statewide comprehensive plans for fish and wildlife management and outdoor recreation; and state forest resource plans that are developed by the states with Forest Service assistance for state and private lands and that provide information that is used at the regional and national levels.

Management direction becomes increasingly specific as planning progresses from the national to the local level.

NATIONAL RPA ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM

Every 10 years, a comprehensive, nationwide assessment is made of the forest and rangeland renewable resources in the United States. Using information generated at the local and regional levels, the RPA Assessment covers timber, range, minerals, water, wildlife and fish, outdoor recreation, and wilderness. Long-range projections are made of future supply and demand for each of these resources. The findings are then used to help determine the desired level of future Forest Service programs. Alternative levels of outputs and associated costs are examined in the RPA Program, which is prepared every 5 years. Based on an analysis of these alternatives and on consideration of public views, the Secretary of Agriculture selects a national RPA recommended program for the Forest Service. Based on the program, the nationwide resource objectives are distributed among the nine Regions of the National Forest System. The recommended program and a Presidential Statement of Policy are transmitted to Congress. The statement of policy is then accepted, rejected, or revised by Congress. The final Statement of Policy and program together guide the framing of future Forest Service budget proposals. Actual program implementation is directed by annual appropriations.

REGIONAL GUIDES

Regional planning links the RPA assessment and program with local National Forest and state planning. It plays a dual role by channeling management direction from the national to the local level and information from the local to the national level. The Regional Guides are tiered to national direction.

The Regional Guide communicated national and regional direction for National Forest planning, as well as information pertinent to the development of state forest resource plans and research activities. Specifically, the Regional Guide serves the following purposes:

1. It provides standards and guidelines for various management activities that may be carried out on the National Forests. These standards and guidelines specify the actual criteria to be applied to the management activities.

2. It provides planning direction for developing individual Forest Plans, including those issues or concerns raised at the national or regional level that can only be assessed or resolved by the Forests. Planning direction essentially defers the final decision on an issue to the individual Forest, within limits established by the Region.

3. It displays the Regional RPA Program and distributes tentative resource targets among individual National Forests. RPA assigned objectives are used as the basis for one of the alternatives examined in the Forest planning process.

4. It reflects the general coordination of National Forest System, State and Private Forestry, and research programs.

FOREST PLANNING

National Forest land and resource management planning considers a broad range of reasonable management alternatives. To the extent practical, Forest Plan alternatives reflect the full range of major commodity and environmental resource uses and values that could be produced from the Forest. All alternatives are formulated to provide different ways of addressing major public issues, management concerns, and resource opportunities identified during the planning process. One alternative is designed to meet the Forest's tentatively assigned share of the 1980 RPA Program; others have resource outputs that are above or below the RPA Program levels. The emphasis in both the RPA Program and National Forest Plan is on the future and how the Forest can best be used and managed to meet people's needs. The Forest's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is tiered to the Intermountain Region Regional Guide.

FOREST PLANNING PROCESS

Regulations to implement the requirements of the National Forest Management Act were published on September 30, 1982, by 47 CFR 43037, 36 CFR 219. Those regulations outline in detail how the proposed Forest Plan is to be prepared. The actions required by the National Forest planning regulations set forth in 36 CFR 219.12 and used in the planning process are as follows:

1. Identification of purpose and need.

2. Development of planning criteria.

3. Collection of inventory data and information.

4. Analysis of the management situation.

5. Formulation of alternatives.

6. Estimated effects of alternatives.

7. Evaluation of alternatives.

8. Recommendation of a Preferred Alternative.

9. Approval of Plan.

10. Monitoring and evaluation of Plan.

Forest planning is coordinated within and tiered to national and regional planning as required by the laws cited and the regulations for implementing them. The Regional Guide establishes management standards and guidelines, provides planning guidance for regionally significant issues and concerns, and distributes national goals and targets from the 1980 RPA Program to individual Forests. The Forest planning process deals with achieving those goals and addressing local issues and concerns. For purposes of NEPA disclosure, the FEIS and The Forest Plan are treated as combined documents as per 40 CFR 1506.4. Projects to meet Plan direction are tiered to the FEIS.

The DEIS was prepared and circulated for public comment upon completion of planning actions 1 through 7. The Preferred Alternative (proposed action) is the basis for the proposed Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan detailed in the accompanying document. After the close of the comment period, the Forest repeated planning actions 1 through 7 as necessary. This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was then prepared, filed with the Environmental Protection Agency, and made available to the public. The Regional Forester will use the FEIS to make a decision under NFMA for approval of the Forest Plan (36 CFR 219.10(c)) documented in the Record of Decision.

The Forest Plan may be revised as needed on a 10-year cycle. It must be revised at least every 15 years. The Plan may also be revised whenever the Forest Supervisor determines that conditions or demands covered by the Plan have changed significantly or when changes in RPA policies, goals, or objectives would have a significant effect on Forest level programs. The Forest Supervisor will review the conditions that might require revision of the Forest Plan at least every 5 years.

C. THE PLANNING AREA

The planning area covered by the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan contains 2,527,929 acres of forest and rangeland in northern and eastern Nevada. The Jarbidge Wilderness is the only designated wilderness on the Forest. It contains 64,667 acres and is located in the northern part of Nevada along the Idaho-Nevada state line. Approximately 1,755,900 acres or 69.5 percent, of the Forest area has been inventoried as roadless (See Chapter III and Appendix C for more detailed information).

The Humboldt National Forest extends southward from the Idaho border, along the north central portion of Nevada, to a point 130 miles north of Las Vegas, in southeastern Nevada. The Forest is divided into five Ranger Districts, with District offices located in Mountain City, Wells, Ely and Winnemucca, Nevada and Buhl, Idaho. (Refer to the Vicinity Map on the next page). The Forest Supervisor's office is located in Elko, Nevada. Primary access to Elko is State Highway 225 from the north, State Highway 228 from the south, and Interstate Highway 80 from the east and west.

There are five Nevada counties in the Forest's zone of influence (ZOI): Elko, Humboldt, Lincoln, Nye and White Pine. Elko and Ely, Nevada, are the largest cities within the Forest's ZOI with populations of 10,000. There are also nine Indian reservations or colonies within the Forest's ZOI.

NAME OF INDIAN RESERVATION/COLONY	COUNTY
Duck Valley	Elko
Duckwater	Nye
Elko County	Elko
Ely	White Pine
Fort McDermitt	Humboldt
Goshute	White Pine
Ruby Valley	Elko
South Fork/Odgers Ranch	Elko
Summit Lake	Humboldt

For analysis purposes, the Forest was divided into 63 analysis areas (AAs). These analysis areas were delineated on the basis of characteristics having important management implications ranging from groups of grazing allotments to municipal watersheds. The AAs were examined for wilderness characteristics as required by the roadless area reevaluation mandate of 1983.

Currently, the Ruby Mountains and Santa Rosa Districts are being managed by Land Use Plans developed in 1978. The Mountain City, Jarbidge, and Ely Districts are being managed by direction established in District multiple-use plans developed in the 1960's and early 1970's.

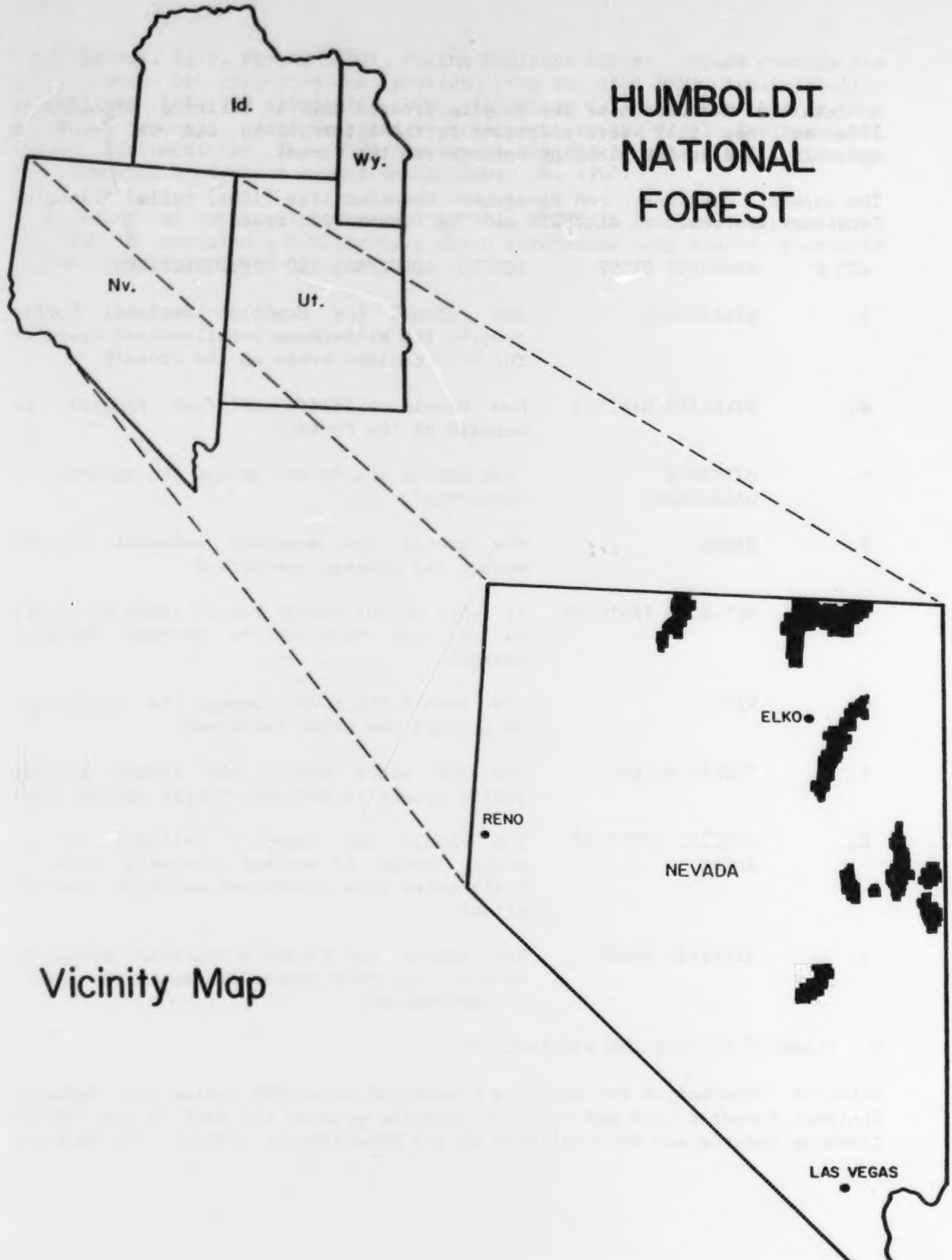
D. ISSUES, CONCERNS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

Identification of public issues, management concerns and opportunities was done through a public involvement process required by the NFMA planning implementation regulations (36 CFR 219.12(b)).

Alternatives for management of the Humboldt National Forest's lands and resources address significant issues, concerns, and opportunities (ICOs) related to Forest management. These issues, concerns, and opportunities must be addressed in the Plan to provide appropriate and effective management direction for the Forest. The ICOs were also used to establish the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (40 CFR 1501.7).

Forest-wide public issues and management concerns were developed from comments from the general public, past planning records, and Forest staff.

HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST


Id.
Wy.
Nv.
Ut.
ELKO
RENO
NEVADA
LAS VEGAS

Vicinity Map

A detailed discussion of the scoping process used in defining significant ICOs and how they were addressed by the alternatives can be found in Appendix A and in the planning records for the Forest.

The Issues, Concerns, and Management Opportunities (ICOs) called "Planning Problems" addressed in the FEIS and The Forest Plan are:

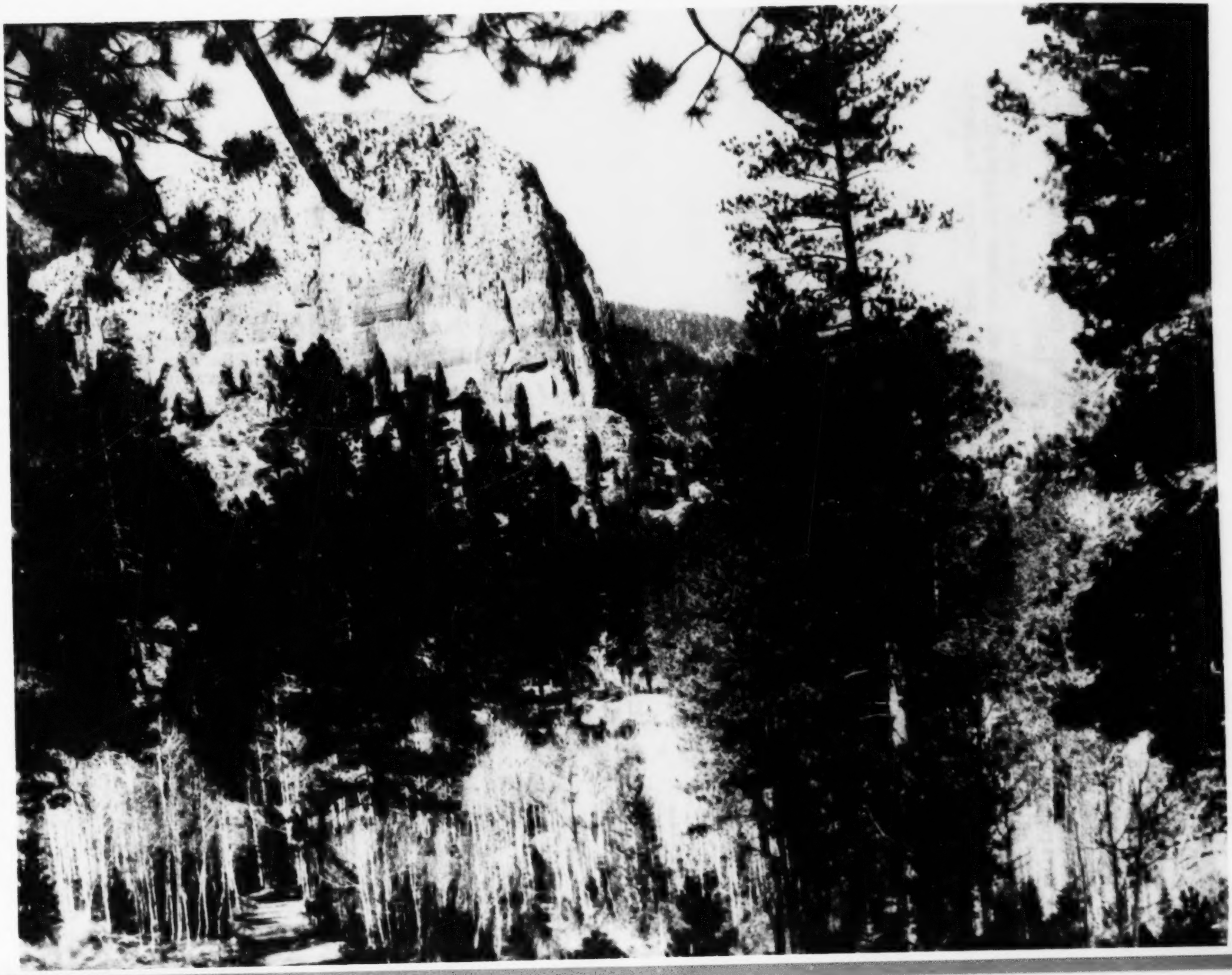
ICO #	RESOURCE GROUP	ISSUES, CONCERNS, AND OPPORTUNITIES
1.	WILDERNESS	How should the Humboldt National Forest resolve the wilderness/nonwilderness question for all roadless areas on the Forest?
2.	WILDLIFE HABITAT	How should wildlife and fish habitat be managed on the Forest?
3.	MINERALS MANAGEMENT	How should the Forest manage its mineral resources?
4.	RANGE	How should the Humboldt National Forest manage its grazing resources?
5.	OFF-ROAD VEHICLES	To what extent should Forest lands be closed to off-road vehicles to prevent resource damage?
6.	WATER	How should the Forest manage its watersheds to protect its water resource?
7.	PUBLIC ACCESS	How and where should the Forest provide public access to National Forest system land?
8.	SPECIAL INTEREST AREAS	How should the Humboldt National Forest manage areas of special interest, such as bristlecone pine stands and cultural resource sites?
9.	RIPARIAN ZONES	How should the Forest's riparian areas be managed and what protective measures should be implemented?

E. PLANNING RECORDS AND AVAILABILITY

Resource information and analysis procedures developed during the Humboldt National Forest's Land and resource planning process are part of the Forest planning records and are available at the Supervisor's Office, 976 Mountain

City Highway, Elko, Nevada 89801, during business hours. These records are incorporated by reference as provided for in the NEPA implementation regulations (40 CFR 1502.21). The intention is to include them in the planning process. Also included by reference, is the Final Environmental Impact Statement on the 1980 Assessment and RPA Program filed with the Environmental Protection Agency on September 26, 1980.

A glossary of technical terms used in this FEIS is located in Appendix D. Appendix E contains a bibliography which references many source documents used in developing this document.



II.

Alternatives, Including the Proposed Action

CHAPTER II

ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes net public benefits and management alternatives and explains how they were developed. Included in it are:

- **Net public benefits.**
- **Legal requirements that guide formulation of each alternative.**
- **Development and disposition of benchmarks.**
- **Alternatives developed and evaluated but not considered in detail.**
- **Description of each alternative considered in detail, including the proposed action.**
- **Comparison of the alternatives.**

Tables in this chapter display resources and activity outputs for a 50 year period. All information shown for periods beyond the first decade are estimates of potential only and are not planned or programmed. Actual programmed accomplishment beyond the first decade will be set through subsequent Forest Plan revisions.

National Forest System land and resource management planning is designed to identify and select for implementation an alternative for managing a National Forest which most nearly maximizes NET PUBLIC BENEFITS in an environmentally sound manner. This Final Environmental Impact Statement contains "...a broad range of reasonable alternatives to provide an adequate basis for identifying the alternative that comes nearest to maximizing net public benefits" (36 CFR 219.12).

Net public benefits are defined as...

> "The overall long-term value to the nation of all outputs and positive effects (benefits) less all associated inputs and negative effects (costs) whether they can be quantitatively valued or not...consistent with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield."

The concept of net public benefits contains both priced yields (those quantitatively determined in the marketplace) and non-priced yields (those possessing values which cannot be directly measured in the marketplace). Examples of priced yields are: the stumpage value of timber, the value of forage, the value of developed recreation opportunities, the in-ground value of minerals, the creation of jobs in the local community and payments to counties in lieu of taxes. Examples of non-priced yields are: protection of threatened and endangered species, protection of cultural resources, dispersed recreation opportunitites and maintenance of soil productivity.

Alternatives are designed and analyzed to achieve their goals and objectives in a manner which achieves the greatest excess in the value of priced yields in relation to their cost while meeting all specified constraints and objectives for non-priced yields. They are also designed to achieve specified non-priced yields and to meet constraints at the least cost.

The alternatives presented in these documents contain specific management actions for the plan period. The plan period is comprised of the next 10 to 15 years only. (The plan period is defined by the NFMA regulations as one decade (36 CFR 219.3 (1982)), while the law permits a 15 year maximum (16 USC 1604 (f)(5))). Within the plan period conditions on the Forest will be reanalyzed and a revised plan developed (36 CFR 219.10 (g)(1982) and (16 USC 1604 (f)(5)).

Management actions, outputs, and environmental and socio-economic effects for several decades beyond the plan period are also discussed for the alternatives. The purpose of these discussions is twofold: (1) To present a long term analysis for decisionmakers and the public of the management necessary for each alternative to achieve and maintain, in perpetuity, a high level of regular periodic outputs of the various resources without impairment to the productivity of the land (16 USC 531). This analysis also provides an estimate of the level of long term outputs for each alternative. (2) Program development for the RPA requires information for four decades beyond the plan period (16 USC 1602). In order for the analysis of alternatives for an RPA program to link with actual conditions and local issues at the Forest level a complete estimate of outputs, costs, and effects for the RPA time horizon is imperative.

The projection of alternative attributes beyond the plan period, although required by law, does not legally bind the Forest to action beyond the planning period. The Forest is required to revise the plan within 15 years of its development and this revision may establish different long-term goals with different future projections.

Twelve Forest management alternatives were formulated in response to issues and concerns expressed by the public and Forest managers and in response to legal requirements. Following the roadless area reevaluation mandate, the original 12 alternatives were condensed into 11. During the summer of 1984, the Forest Management Team evaluated these 11 alternatives. Two more alternatives were eliminated due to similarities with some of the remaining alternatives. From the 9 alternatives evaluated in detail, the Preferred Alternative (Alt. K) was selected to guide development of the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. This selection was made after all alternatives had been formulated, their effects estimated and displayed, and a thorough analysis of each was completed.

Further details are available in the public involvement records that are on file at the Forest Supervisor's Office.

B. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In Forest planning, an alternative is a combination of resource objectives, outputs, and constraints that achieve a certain management philosophy.

Many combinations are possible in formulating a range of alternatives for evaluation as possible Forest Plans. The nine alternatives described in the chapter were formulated in response to direction from the public, the Forest Management Team, and Federal law.

1. Regulations developed from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) provide direction for formulating alternatives. NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1502.12) require that the alternatives section of any environmental impact statement should:

- rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives, and for the alternatives that were eliminated, briefly discuss the reasons why they were eliminated.

- devote substantial treatment to each alternative considered in detail, including the Preferred Alternative, so that reviewers may evaluate their comparative merits.

- include reasonable alternatives not within the jurisdiction of the agency.

- include a "No Action" Alternative.

- identify the Preferred Alternative or alternatives.

- include appropriate mitigation measures not already included in the proposed action or other alternatives.

2. The Forest Service NEPA Procedure Handbook (FSH 1909.15, section 12.5) states that a reasonable range of alternatives must be fully and impartially developed insuring that the range of alternatives does not prematurely close options that might protect, restore, or enhance the physical, social, economic, and biological environment.

3. NFMA regulations (36 CFR 219.12(f)) require that the following be considered in formulating alternatives:

The primary goal is to provide an adequate base for identifying the alternative that maximizes net public benefits, consistent with resource integration and management requirements stated in 36 CFR 219.13 through 219.27.

Alternatives shall reflect a range of resource outputs and levels of expenditures.

Alternatives shall provide different ways to address and respond to the major public issues, management concerns, and resource opportunities identified during this planning process.

At least one alternative shall respond to and incorporate the 1980 RPA program displayed in the Intermountain Regional Regional Guide.

At least one alternative shall reflect the present volume of goods and level of services provided and expected to be provided in the future if present direction continues.

Each alternative shall represent the most cost-efficient combination of management prescriptions examined that can meet the objectives established in the alternatives.

The beginning point for formulating alternatives is the body of data developed in response to projections of demand and determinations of the potential to resolve public issues and management concerns (CFR 219.12(c)(3) and (4)).

4. The NFMA regulations (36 CFR 219.12(f)(9)) require that each alternative state:

- the condition and use that would result from long-term application of the alternative.

- the goods and services to be produced, and the timing and flow of these resource outputs together with associated costs and benefits.

- standards and guidelines for resource management.

- the purpose of the proposed management direction.

5. The Washington Office Guidelines for Implementation dated October 14, 1981, require that an array of alternatives of the following types be considered:

- one that responds to and incorporates the RPA program goals and objectives displayed in the Regional Guide. This alternative shows how best to meet the Forest's share of the 1980 RPA program.

- one that presents the current program (no action alternative) which is the current level of goods and services provided by the unit, and the most likely amount of goods and services expected to be provided if current management direction continues and if current budget is updated for changing costs over time.

- one that shows departures from even flow timber harvest within the range of alternatives. (Since the Humboldt National Forest has no timber harvest program, this alternative was not considered).

- one that considers market opportunity outputs and emphasizes outputs that have the potential to produce income to the Government.

- one that considers nonmarket opportunity outputs and emphasizes the nonmarket outputs and amenity values.

- other alternatives that respond to public issues, management concerns, and resource opportunities and reflect a broad range of resource outputs and levels of expenditure.

6. The Regional Land Management Planning Checklist of February 1984 required an alternative be developed that would be constrained by a budget of 25 percent less than the average of the budgets over the past 10 years. The Forest determined the management emphasis for this alternative.

Also required was an alternative that considers outputs equal to those portrayed in Alternative 9 of the 1985 RPA DEIS.

C. HOW ALTERNATIVES WERE DEVELOPED

The Forest Planning Interdisciplinary (ID) Team developed alternatives in response to the NFMA, NEPA, internal requirements, and public input by the process summarized below:

1. Major issues were identified through public involvement efforts. The Forest's management concerns were added to these public issues.

2. Public issues and management concerns were consolidated into a set of Planning Problems.

3. Biological potentials were determined for each Forest resource, through the development of benchmarks.

4. Demand and supply potentials were estimated for the various resource activities that were highlighted by the Planning Problems. Needed changes in management direction and opportunities to change future emphasis were identified.

5. Alternative direction statements were established that provided a broad range of options. Prescriptions were developed, guided by the alternative emphasis and applied to units of land called grouped analysis areas. The list of prescriptions and the grouped analysis areas assigned to them are shown in Appendix B. Roadless areas were included as grouped analysis areas. By applying wilderness/nonwilderness prescriptions, an array of wilderness acres was achieved to satisfy the goals of each alternative. The alternatives reflecting these emphasis statements address the planning problems. How the Problems are addressed by each alternative is shown in the comparison section of this chapter.

6. Constraints and mitigation measures for each resource output were made for each alternative. These constraints and mitigation measures affect the maximum and/or minimum level of goods and services to be produced. These constraints, and mitigation measures with rationale for their use, are shown in Appendix B. 1/

7. The ID Team, aided by FORPLAN, estimated the goods and services that each alternative could produce. FORPLAN is a mathematical process that uses linear programming to select a combination of prescriptions within a given set of constraints designed to achieve the management direction for each alternative. FORPLAN is further detailed in Appendix B.

8. The estimates prepared in Step 7 above were used to revise and refine the constraints and direction of each alternative. These adjustments were necessary to continue to meet the intent of the alternative directions developed in Step 5 above.

9. Steps 5 through 8, above, were repeated as necessary to arrive at the required range of alternatives.

1/ A detailed list of constraints is included in the Alternatives Working Papers on file at the Forest Supervisor's Office.

D. DEVELOPMENT OF BENCHMARKS

Benchmarks are the results of a systematic, objective analysis performed primarily in the FORPLAN model. During the Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS), benchmark level analyses were performed to (1) determine supply potentials for resource outputs; (2) derive reference points against which Humboldt National Forest alternatives could be developed; and (3) define the range within which feasible alternatives could be constructed (the "decision space"). Resource capabilities, legal constraints, and professional assumptions about the future were used to determine potentials of resource supply, both in and out of FORPLAN. Limits in the capability to supply goods and services were determined by establishing minimum and maximum levels of production for each resource. Also, a monetary benchmark was estimated for a set of multiple resource outputs that maximized present net value (PNV). This analysis established the "benchmark" levels required by 36 CFR 219.12.

Four categories of benchmarks were developed for the Humboldt National Forest:

1. Minimum Level Benchmark: This is the minimum amount and intensity of management needed to maintain and protect the Forest as part of the National Forest System.

2. Current Level Benchmark: This depicts future production of goods and services resulting from continued practices of management.

3. Resource Benchmarks: These represent the maximum physical and biological potentials for production of grazing, wilderness, recreation, and wildlife and fish.

4. Monetary Benchmarks: These show the maximum PNV that could be achieved.

All benchmarks were used to define the upper and lower limits for production of each resource. Descriptions and statements of purpose of the benchmarks developed and considered in Forest planning follow. The disposition following the description explains why all but the Current Level Benchmark were eliminated and not considered as workable alternatives. Table II-1 displays PNV and priced outputs for benchmarks (See page II-9). For a complete list of benchmark constraints and outputs, refer to Appendix B. The prices of outputs included in the PNV analysis are contained in Appendix B. Outputs, activities, costs, benefits, and returns to the treasury for each benchmark are also in Appendix B.

E. BENCHMARK LEVEL DESCRIPTION

1. Minimum Level: This level is the least cost of keeping the Forest in public ownership. This program would: protect life, health, and safety of Forest users, provide administration of special uses where "unavoidable", protect water and soil resources, and prevent significant impairment of productivity of Forest or adjacent lands. This level is custodial management, and the only outputs are those independent of National Forest System management, such as water yield, wildlife, and dispersed recreation.

Benchmark Disposition: This benchmark was not a viable alternative because it did not respond to public issues and management concerns and did not provide multiple resource uses and outputs. Also, it did not meet the intent of the Organic Act of 1897, the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960, and the Resource Planning Act of 1974 as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. PNV decreased $70 million from Current Level, and present value of costs (PVC) decreased $49 million under this benchmark.

2. Current Level: This level is the current management direction, and it provides for significant increases in wilderness and developed recreation use. Wildlife, fish and grazing benefits increase slightly.

Benchmark Disposition: This was used to further refine the Current Management Alternative. This level produces the third highest PNV of the benchmarks.

3. Maximum Grazing Resource: Production of forage and livestock was emphasized within the minimum management requirements. Reasonable biological potential was developed and was not constrained by budgets or policy. This benchmark was used to test the range of alternative livestock outputs and the feasibility of meeting RPA targets for livestock.

Benchmark Disposition: This level was eliminated from further study because it failed to satisfy all of the multiple use requirements and issues and concerns. It would increase PVC by $42 million more than current program and would produce $30 million less PNV than the Current Program over the planning period.

4. Maximum Wilderness Resource: Wilderness recreation was emphasized subject to meeting the minimum management requirements. Reasonable biological potential was developed without budget or policy constraints. Single resource analysis was used in the FORPLAN model to determine the maximum production level of wilderness opportunities (in recreation visitor days).

Benchmark Disposition: This benchmark was eliminated from further study because it failed to meet multiple use requirements and to satisfy uses and concerns. This benchmark would increase PVC by $3 million and would increase the PNV by $20 million over the current program.

5. Maximum Wildlife and Fish Resource: Production of wildlife and fish was emphasized within the minimum management requirements. Reasonable biological potential was developed and was not constrained by budgets or policy. Data for mule deer, sage grouse, goshawk, and trout were used in the FORPLAN model as management indicator species.

Benchmark Disposition: This benchmark was not developed as an alternative because it failed to meet multiple use requirements and to satisfy all of the issues and concerns. It provided the basis for the wildlife and fish elements of the Non-Market Opportunity (Alt. J), significant Wilderness/Commodity Emphasis (Alt. A), and Preferred (Alt. K). An increase in PVC would have been $16 million, with a decrease in PNV of $11 million from the Current Program.

6. Maximum Present Net Value (Market Value): All outputs (grazing, woodland products, and developed recreation) that return dollars to the Treasury and have a market value were emphasized. Only those market-valued outputs that had a positive benefit/cost ratio were considered. Non-market outputs were added at the current level within the constraints of market outputs to give this level a complete combination of resource outputs. Minimum management requirements were met.

Benchmark Disposition: This benchmark could not be implemented as an alternative without violating multiple use requirements. It meets minimum management requirements and would not impair the productivity of the land. The resource outputs, scheduling, benefits, and costs were used as reference points for all alternative comparisons.

7. Maximum Present Net Value (All Resources): This level emphasized the present net value based on assigned RPA values. Only those activities that had a benefit/cost ratio greater than one were included. Minimum management requirements were met. This benchmark has the highest PNV of the benchmarks.

Benchmark Disposition: This benchmark was used in the economic analysis section to compare the other alternatives. It provided the basis for identifying social, economic, and environmental tradeoffs. It was not a viable alternative because it fails to meet multiple use and NFMA requirements.

Economic Analysis of Benchmarks

This analysis describes the various benefits, costs, and the present net value of each benchmark level. Table II-1 compares PNV to priced outputs. It also displays discounted costs by major cost categories. Table II-2 compares PNV and nonpriced outputs. Table II-3 is a narrative comparison of PNV and qualitative effects.

The benchmark levels have a PNV that ranges from 96 percent (maximum wildlife) to 107 percent (maximum PNV, all outputs) of the Current Level Benchmark. Minimum Level benchmark (custodial management) has a PNV which is 7 percent of the existing situation and has a benefit/cost ratio of 9.7:1. However, no woodland, grazing, or developed recreation outputs are realized from this level.

Comparison of the minimum level PNV and benefit/cost ratio with those of the other levels reveals an overwhelming proportion of the values generated from the Forest are based on "naturally occurring outputs". In effect, 33 percent of the value of the existing management situation is produced by induced outputs. About 28 percent of the value of the maximum PNV (all resources) is produced by induced outputs. Comparison of the relative proportion of PNV generated by each resource use for each benchmark level illustrates the same point.

Most of the PNV for each benchmark is the result of minerals, wildlife and fisheries, and grazing. Woodland products provide only a small proportion of the PNV levels. Grazing accounts for one-fourth the total PNV for all benchmark levels except the minimum (constrained) level.

TABLE II-1
PRESENT NET VALUE AND PRICED OUTPUTS FOR BENCHMARKS
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS (1882)
DISCOUNT RATE IS 4%

				PVB BY RESOURCE							PVC BY MAJOR COST CATEGORIES								
BENCHMARK	PNV	PVC	PVB	RECRE-ATION	WILD-ERNESS	WILD-LIFE & FISH	GRAZING	MINER-ALS	WOOD- 1/ LAND PRODUCTS	OTHER 2/	PRO-TECTION	GENERAL ADMIN	ROADS	RANGE INVESTS	OTHER 3/ INVESTS	FACILITIES (FA & O)	O & M	MINERALS	NON-FS COSTS
Minimum Level	247.15	28.51	275.66	22.98	2.58	102.08	0	147.51	0.18	0.33	4.10	9.09	0	0	0.15	0	13.68	1.49	0
Current Level	317.41	77.28	394.69	36.31	18.84	103.24	93.12	142.00	0.72	0.46	4.20	17.61	2.74	4.20	0.40	2.81	41.61	1.86	1.85
Maximum Grazing	287.16	119.68	406.84	50.49	5.95	104.34	99.77	144.72	1.08	0.49	4.44	17.61	8.78	6.62	2.52	2.82	71.65	2.46	2.78
Maximum Wilderness	337.15	80.34	417.49	27.10	58.52	103.44	92.93	134.47	0.41	0.62	4.24	17.61	2.75	3.83	0.69	2.81	44.63	1.84	1.94
Maximum Wildlife and Fish	306.19	93.77	399.96	43.61	4.50	105.66	97.29	147.51	0.83	0.56	4.15	17.61	4.65	5.22	1.35	2.83	54.04	2.03	1.89
Maximum PNV (Market)	306.92	84.89	391.81	41.68	2.58	103.77	95.50	147.51	0.50	0.87	4.19	17.61	4.51	4.49	0.65	2.82	47.07	1.59	1.96
Maximum PNV (All Resources)	338.54	78.02	416.56	27.82	56.30	103.38	93.32	135.02	0.43	0.29	4.15	17.61	2.75	4.37	0.68	2.81	41.89	1.81	1.95

1/ - Includes Fuelwood, Christmas Trees, and Pinenuts.

2/ - Includes Special Use Permits and Posts.

3/ - Includes Recreation and Wildlife.

TABLE II-2
PRESENT NET VALUE AND NON-PRICED OUTPUTS FOR BENCHMARKS
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS (1982) DISCOUNT RATE IS 4%

	PRESENT NET VALUE			NON-PRICED OUTPUTS							
BENCHMARK	PNV	PVC	PVB	DEER NUMBERS	GRAZING CAPACITY (M AUMs)	RANGE COND FAIR/ BETTER ($)	LAND DISTURBED NON-ENERGY (ACRES)	LAND DISTURBED ENERGY (ACRES)	WILD-ERNESS (M ACRES)	ROS SPM (M ACRES)	ROS SPNM (M ACRES)
1 - Minimum Level	247.15	28.51	275.66								
1986				53,000	292.7	69	1118	11	64.7	1090.2	909.9
1995				52,500	292.7	69	1195	16	64.7	1255.6	956.0
2000				51,200	292.7	69	1194	18	64.7	1333.8	975.1
2010				50,500	292.7	69	1101	16	64.7	1431.9	1014.1
2020				49,200	292.7	69	1101	16	64.7	1503.2	1044.5
2035				48,700	292.7	69	1077	16	64.7	1567.0	1075.8
2 - Current Level	317.41	77.28	394.69								
1986				53,000	294.4	70	581	8	483.4	718.2	909.9
1995				53,100	301.4	71	599	12	483.4	793.8	974.5
2000				53,200	305.2	73	758	13	483.4	828.7	994.0
2010				53,200	310.6	75	653	12	483.4	906.5	1023.8
2020				53,000	319.3	77	653	12	483.4	963.9	1054.6
2035				52,800	319.6	80	653	11	483.4	1020.9	1086.2
3 - Maximum Grazing	287.16	119.68	406.84								
1986				53,000	296.3	69	604	8	215.4	1352.8	909.9
1995				53,400	311.3	71	640	13	215.4	1481.9	909.9
2000				54,100	324.3	75	799	13	215.4	1532.5	955.1
2010				54,900	334.7	78	733	12	215.4	1555.2	984.7
2020				55,600	338.5	80	733	12	215.4	1652.5	1015.2
2035				55,900	339.1	82	657	12	215.4	1712.7	1061.5
4 - Maximum Wilderness	337.15	80.34	417.49								
1986				53,000	293.3	69	798	8	1807.4	56.6	909.9
1995				53,500	287.6	69	857	14	1807.4	138.9	1002.8
2000				54,300	287.6	69	955	15	1807.4	171.5	1022.9
2010				55,100	288.3	70	886	13	1807.4	209.5	1063.8
2020				55,700	289.1	71	886	13	1807.4	233.0	1095.7
2035				55,800	291.2	71	816	13	1807.4	257.1	1128.6
5 - Maximum Wild-life and Fish	306.19	93.77	399.96								
1986				53,000	295.8	69	398	8	64.7	1090.2	909.9
1995				53,900	307.7	71	402	10	64.7	1255.6	956.0
2000				55,200	317.7	75	562	11	64.7	1333.8	975.1
2010				56,600	324.8	77	506	11	64.7	1431.9	1014.1
2020				58,000	336.4	80	457	10	64.7	1503.2	1044.5
2035				58,800	337.1	84	457	11	64.7	1567.0	1075.8
6 - Maximum PNV Market	306.92	84.89	391.81								
1986				53,000	294.9	69	606	10	64.7	1090.2	909.9
1995				52,800	303.2	69	619	14	64.7	1255.6	956.0
2000				52,800	310.9	71	778	16	64.7	1333.8	975.1
2010				52,800	315.3	72	676	14	64.7	1431.9	1014.1
2020				52,800	323.8	74	676	14	64.7	1503.2	1044.5
2035				52,600	323.9	76	670	14	64.7	1567.0	1075.8
7 - Maximum PNV All Resources	338.54	78.02	416.56								
1986				53,000	294.2	69	583	8	1711.9	52.1	909.9
1995				53,500	299.1	69	599	12	1711.9	127.3	922.6
2000				54,300	304.0	70	658	13	1711.9	157.8	941.1
2010				55,100	306.8	71	654	12	1711.9	192.7	978.7
2020				55,700	311.3	72	654	12	1711.9	214.4	1008.0
2035				55,800	311.8	73	654	11	1711.9	236.5	1038.3

TABLE II-3
PRESENT NET VALUE IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS (1982) DISCOUNTED AT 4% AND QUALITATIVE EFFECTS

BENCHMARKS	PNV	PVC	PVB	NARRATIVE
Minimum Level	247.15	28.51	275.66	Within this benchmark, the air quality will remain the same as the current situation, the visual quality will increase, the ROS classification will shift towards non-motorized, wilderness acres will total 64.7 M. Ac., water quality will remain the same as the current situation, while soil productivity will be maintained.
Current Level	317.41	77.28	394.69	Within this benchmark, the air quality will remain the same as the current situation, the visual quality will decrease, the ROS classification will shift towards motorized, wilderness acres will total 678.7 M. Ac., water quality will remain the same as the current situation, while soil productivity will be maintained.
Maximum Grazing	287.16	119.68	406.84	Within this benchmark, the air quality will remain the same as the current situation, the visual quality will decrease, the ROS classification will shift towards motorized, wilderness acres will total 200.1 M. Ac., water quality will be improved, while soil productivity will be maintained.
Maximum Wilderness	337.15	80.34	417.49	Within this benchmark, the air quality will remain the same as the current situation, the visual quality will increase, the ROS classification will shift towards non-motorized, wilderness acres will total 1,755.9 M. Ac., water quality will remain the same as the current situation, while soil productivity will be maintained.
Maximum Wildlife and Fish	306.19	93.77	399.96	Within this benchmark, the air quality will remain the same as the current situation, the visual quality will increase, the ROS classification will shift towards non-motorized, wilderness acres will total 64.7 M. Ac., water quality will remain the same as the current situation, while soil productivity will be maintained.
Maximum PNV (Market)	306.92	84.89	391.81	Within this benchmark, the air quality will remain the same as the current situation, the visual quality will decrease, the ROS classification will shift towards non-motorized, wilderness acres will total 64.7 M. Ac., water quality will remain the same as the current situation, while soil productivity will be maintained.
Maximum PNV (All Resources)	338.54	78.02	416.56	Within this benchmark, the air quality will remain the same as the current situation, the visual quality will remain the same, the ROS classification will shift towards non-motorized, wilderness acres will total 1,664.0 M. Ac., water quality will remain the same as the current situation, while soil productivity will be maintained.

Benchmark Analysis by Primary Resource Element

In this analysis the existing situation is used as a point of comparison The existing situation is current program management direction and emphasis under current (FY 1982) budget constraints. Selected outputs over the 50 year planning horizon are displayed in Table II-4-A for comparison.

TABLE II-4-A
SELECTED AVERAGE ANNUAL OUTPUTS FOR THE CURRENT LEVEL

OUTPUTS	UNITS*	QUANTITY
Developed Recreation Use	MRVDs	190.0
Dispersed Recreation Use	MRVDs	213.2
Wilderness	M ACRES	678.7
Wilderness Use	MRVDs	80.0
Mule Deer	NUMBER	53,000
Wildlife & Fish Use	M WFUDs	150.1
Permitted Grazing	M AUMs	299.4
Water Meeting Forest Goals	M ACRE FEET	94.5
Fuelwood	M CDs	4.5
X-Mas Trees	M TREES	3.5
Pinenuts	M LBS	10.9

* Units are defined in "Key to Abbreviations" and in Appendix D (Glossary).

TABLE II-4-B
AVERAGE ANNUAL RECREATION USE OUTPUTS OF BENCHMARK LEVELS

LEVEL	DEVELOPED (MRVDs)	DISPERSED (MRVDs)
Current Level	190.0	213.2
Minimum Level	0	263.9
Maximum Grazing	263.2	312.0
Maximum Wilderness	203.4	106.6
Maximum Wildlife and Fish	203.4	282.4
Maximum PNV (Market)	199.8	264.6
Maximum PNV (All)	203.4	101.5

The Maximum Wildlife and Fish and the Maximum PNV levels provide 7 percent more total recreation use than the Current Level situation (See Table II-4-B above). The Maximum Grazing benchmark increases the dispersed recreation level by 46 percent while the Maximum Wilderness benchmark decreases nonwilderness dispersed recreation potential by 100 percent.

The Maximum Wilderness benchmark provides 159 percent more wilderness acreage and accounts for a threefold increase in recreation visitor days over the existing situation (see Table II-4-C below).

TABLE II-4-C
AVERAGE ANNUAL WILDERNESS OUTPUTS BY BENCHMARK LEVELS

LEVEL	M ACRES	QUANTITY
Current Level	678.7	80.0
Minimum Level	64.7	11.2
Maximum Grazing	200.1	25.4
Maximum Wilderness	1755.9	252.9
Maximum Wildlife	64.7	19.3
Maximum PNV (Market)	64.7	11.1
Maximum PNV (All)	1664.0	243.4

TABLE II-4-D
AVERAGE ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF SELECTED WILDLIFE OUTPUTS OF BENCHMARK LEVELS

LEVEL	MULE DEER (Numbers)	MRVDs
Current Level	53,000	150.1
Minimum Level	50,220	143.9
Maximum Grazing	54,940	152.0
Maximum Wilderness	54,800	152.3
Maximum Wildlife and Fish	56,770	154.6
Maximum PNV (Market)	52,800	149.4
Maximum PNV (All)	54,980	152.2

The Maximum Wildlife and Fish level produces 7 percent more mule deer and 3 percent more wildlife and fish user days (WFUDs) than the Current Level (see Table II-4-D above). The Maximum Grazing benchmark produces 13 percent more mule deer annually due to improved (diversified) habitat resulting from increased range improvement measures. Other maximum levels do not significantly affect big game production.

TABLE II-4-E
AVERAGE ANNUAL GRAZING AND WATER QUALITY OUTPUTS OF BENCHMARK LEVELS

LEVEL	PERMITTED GRAZING USE (M AUMs)	WATER MEETING FOREST GOALS AT YEAR 2030 (M ACRE FEET)
Current Level	299.4	94.5
Minimum Level	0.0	94.5
Maximum Grazing	325.0	94.5
Maximum Wilderness	297.7	94.5
Maximum Wildlife and Fish	31.56	94.5
Maximum PNV (Market)	307.8	94.5
Maximum PNV (All)	299.5	94.5

The Maximum Grazing level is 8 percent higher than the Current Level (Table II-4-E above). The Maximum Wildlife and Fish level increases annual grazing outputs by 5 percent. The Current Level projects annual grazing use at slightly less than two Maximum PNV levels. Water meeting Forest goals will remain the same in all benchmarks.

TABLE II-4-F
AVERAGE ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF WOODLAND PRODUCTS OF BENCHMARK LEVELS

LEVEL	FUELWOOD (M CORDS)	CHRISTMAS TREES (M TREES)	PINENUTS (M LBS)
Current Level	4.5	3.5	10.9
Minimum Level	0.6	1.9	4.5
Maximum Grazing	6.9	5.0	13.2
Maximum Wilderness	2.4	1.7	9.1
Maximum Wildlife and Fish	5.8	3.8	11.7
Maximum PNV (Market)	5.5	4.0	11.1
Maximum PNV (All)	2.5	2.3	9.1

The Maximum Grazing level produces 53 percent more fuelwood, 43 percent more Christmas trees, and 21 percent more pinenuts than the Current Level. The Current Level, however, produces 80 percent more fuelwood, 52 percent more Christmas trees, and about 20 percent more pinenuts than the Maximum PNV level for all resources (see Table II-4-F above).

F. BENCHMARK LEVEL, OUTPUTS, ACTIVITIES, BENEFITS, AND COSTS

Table II-3 displays PNV data plus a discussion of qualitative effects of the benchmarks (See page II-11). A complete resume of outputs and activities for each benchmark level is shown in Appendix B.

Appendix B shows changes between benchmarks measured as a difference from first decade output, activity, cost and benefits in the Current Management (Alt. H) "No Action" alternative.

G. ALTERNATIVES EVALUATED BUT NOT CONSIDERED IN DETAIL

Two alternatives (B and G) were considered in the planning process but were eliminated from detailed study. Version II FORPLAN computer runs were used to predict yields associated with these alternatives. Brief descriptions of these alternatives are contained in the Forest Planning records.

Alternative B was developed to designate 69 percent of the roadless areas for wilderness, primarily to ensure a wide range of wilderness area designations among alternatives. It also emphasized production of commodity resources within the nonwilderness areas. This alternative was eliminated from detailed study as it produced only minor differences in resource yields from other alternatives. These represented an adequate range of wilderness area designations.

Alternative G (the 1980 RPA Program) recommended the same percentage (12 percent) of roadless areas for wilderness as Alternative F (the 1985 RPA update). This alternative was eliminated from detailed study because it also produced essentially the same resource yields as Alternative F. Therefore, Alternative F is the combined 1980 RPA program and 1985 RPA update.

Departure Analysis

Since the Humboldt National Forest does not administer a sawtimber management program, a departure analysis is unnecessary.

H. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED IN DETAIL

Nine alternatives for managing the lands and associated resources of the Humboldt National Forest were evaluated in detail. The Preferred (Alt. K) was adjusted between the draft EIS and this Final EIS to modify our wilderness recommendation to respond to public comment. 1/ The alternatives are defined to a great extent by the constraints which apply to each (see Appendix B).

Recommendations to designate roadless areas for wilderness, or change the Forest boundary are preliminary. These recommendations are subject to review by the Chief of the Forest Service, the Secreatry of Agriculture, the President, and ultimately, by Congress and the President.

1/ More detailed information on each alternative is available in the Alternatives Working Papers on file at the Forest Supervisor's office.

All roadless areas within the Forest were recommended for wilderness under the Non-Market (Alt. J) which emphasizes the management of amenity values. The reverse was true in the Market (Alt. I) which recommended no roadless areas for wilderness and emphasized income returns to the government. The existing Jarbidge Wilderness Area will be managed as a designated wilderness under all alternatives.

Forty-nine roadless areas were evaluated in the Forest Plan as to their potential for being recommended as wilderness. The array of alternatives represents a broad range of recommended wilderness acreage. As previously mentioned, all roadless areas on the Humboldt National Forest were recommended for wilderness in the Non-Market (Alt. J). Market (Alt. I) contains no roadless areas recommended for wilderness. The intermediate alternatives contain 12, 15, 18, 27, 39, and 68 percent of the roadless area acres recommended for wilderness.

The Non-Market (Alt. J) evaluates roadless areas based on their original boundaries as recommended under RARE II or during the initial phases of the recent roadless area reevaluation. Based on both management recommendations and public involvement, some roadless area boundaries were realigned. The roadless areas were evaluated based on the realigned boundaries in all alternatives except the Non-Market (Alt. J).

Riparian habitat, as well as other habitats, will be enhanced through direct improvement and improved coordination with grazing management and the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

Resource outputs, benefits, activities and costs for each alternative are displayed in Tables II-5-A through II-13-B. These tables follow the appropriate alternative description.

ALTERNATIVE A - SIGNIFICANT WILDERNESS/COMMODITY EMPHASIS

This alternative was designed to display the costs/benefits and output levels that would occur if a significant amount of the roadless acres on the Forest were recommended for wilderness management.

Recreation

All developed sites will be managed at full service level. The vegetation and soil resources on most developed sites will improve. Fee sites will be reconstructed as needed. Forest recreation experiences will tend to shift towards dispersed recreation. Dispersed recreation will be managed at the full service level. Trailheads and trails will be constructed and reconstructed through year 1990. Most trail maintenance will be at level 3 and some at level 4.

Supply for dispersed recreation far exceeds demand. Demand for developed recreation should be met until the year 2000.

Recreation special uses will be administered to meet environmental and public service standards.

Knowledge of and ability to manage cultural resources will improve. The cultural resource program would increase from the project level to include Forestwide inventory and evaluation. One property would be nominated to the National Register every two years until potential is reached. Enhancement of properties would increase beyond project mitigation and protection but no on-site signing would be allowed in wilderness.

Additional lands will be acquired if an opportunity arises to optimize recreation.

Wilderness

Forty-two roadless areas are recommended for wilderness within this alternative. (Refer to Appendix C for a list of the roadless areas.) All of the wilderness areas (including the existing Jarbidge Area) will be managed at full service level.

Wildlife

Habitat for Federally listed threatened and endangered species will be improved and conflicts with other uses will not be permitted. The reintroduction of peregrine falcons in cooperation with Nevada Department of Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will continue. Habitat for sensitive species, especially for aquatic species will be improved.

Improvement of nongame habitat and nonconsumptive wildlife programs will be emphasized. The aquatic habitat capability of streams will be increased. Riparian habitat will be enhanced through direct improvement and improved coordination with grazing management and the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Big game winter range production will increase also.

All populations of hunted and fished Management Indicator Species (MIS) 1/ will increase under this alternative. All habitats will be maintained at levels that exceed minimum requirements for viable populations. This alternative will provide an estimated 152,532 WFUDs by the end of the planning horizon. The habitat capability for MIS will be maintained or slightly improved through the planning period.

Additional lands will be acquired if an opportunity arises to optimize wildlife habitat.

Range

Permitted AUMs will remain essentially the same. However, fluctuations in AUM numbers will occur during the planning horizon. AUMs could be increased by (1) reconstruction of range improvements by permittees, (2) acceptance of a lower condition standard for the range resource, or (3) changes in allotment management systems.

Sensitive plant species will be protected. Wild horse use will increase to 4,530 AUMs by the year 2030. The program for noxious weed control will be strengthened in cooperation with the counties.

Development and implementation of allotment management plans will reduce the impact of livestock on riparian areas. Areas now closed to grazing will remain closed. Predator control will be allowed on grazing allotments where needed.

Woodland Products

The harvest of fuelwood and Christmas trees will decrease slightly through the planning period. Most of the projects will be closely tied to wildlife habitat improvement.

Soil and Water

Water quality and soil productivity will improve at a moderate rate. Watershed improvements will occur at a moderate rate, yet current needs for watershed improvement will not be satisfied by the end of the planning period. Reductions in soil erosion will be low; however, watershed protection will proceed at a moderately high level through implementation of soil and water conservation measures. Soil and water resource inventory will continue, as will present coordination with city, county, and state agencies.

Additional lands will be acquired if an opportunity arises to optimize soil and water values.

Minerals

Withdrawals and legislative requirements will restrict mineral development on 1,233,951 acres.

Oil and gas lease development and proposals for mining claim operations will receive careful evaluation on a case-by-case basis through the environmental analysis process. Prompt processing of proposals for exploration and development will be emphasized. Energy minerals will receive highest priority. Organization and funding under this alternative will enable proper evaluation of 223 applications and proposals. Additional applications will not be handled adequately or will be held in suspense for evaluation the following year.

Fire Protection

Fire protection will be concentrated on high production market output areas. Prescribed burning from both planned and unplanned ignitions will be used extensively to create diversified Forest conditions and improve wildlife habitat.

Lands

National Forest System ownership will increase under this alternative.

1/ - Mule deer, sage grouse, goshawk and trout were selected as MIS. Refer to Chapter III of the FEIS pages III-16 through III-18 for a discussion on MIS.

Offers for land exchange will be responded to within 13 months, and one land exchange per year will be completed.

Two road rights-of-way will be acquired for resource programs each year.

Standards for dam inspection will be met. Permittees will be notified of deficiencies, but few emergency preparedness and operating plans for dams will be developed.

Existing electronic sites will be maintained.

Utilities will be allowed in corridors evaluated as suitable.

Special Areas

Five Research Natural Areas (RNA) will be proposed for designation on the Forest.

Facilities

This alternative provides for adequate maintenance, repair and replacement of all essential buildings and associated water and sewer systems throughout the planning period. All essential facilities will be brought into compliance with and maintained to appropriate health and safety standards. Replacement of warehousing facilities in Elko will start in 1989 and be completed by 1992. Buildings and facilities not needed for resource activities will be removed or disposed of.

Transportation

A program will be developed to provide a safe, economical and environmentally sound road system to meet resource needs.

Two hundred and ninety-eight miles of arterial and collector roads will be reconstructed during the planning period. Ninety-two miles of local road construction and reconstruction will also occur during the planning period. Some additional road construction and reconstruction will be done by commercial users.

Most of the bridge replacements will be funded within the Forest budget under this alternative. A few bridge replacements will be accomplished through the Regional Bridge Replacement Program.

Road maintenance efforts will be concentrated on the arterial and collector system and those local roads needed for resource activities. Some of the local roads will receive little, if any, maintenance. A few of these local roads will deteriorate and may eventually become impassable. Maintenance levels for the roads will be determined by the road management program.

Traffic may be restricted on roads that have not been constructed to an all-weather standard.

Visuals

The Visual quality objective (VQO) for this alternative will be:

CATEGORY	ALTERNATIVE A (M ACRES)	M ACRES CHANGE FROM PRESENT INVENTORY
Preservation	1266	750
Retention	47	- 37
Partial Retention	115	- 311
Modification	600	- 222
Maximum Modification	500	- 180

Law Enforcement

Increased public use of the Forest will increase law enforcement problems. Cooperative law enforcement agreements with state and local law enforcement agencies will be maintained.

Watersheds will be protected from ORV damage.

TABLE II-5-A
RESOURCE OUTPUTS & BENEFITS FOR ALTERNATIVE A
(SIG. WILD./COMMODITY EMPHASIS)
(Thousands of Undiscounted 1982 Dollars)

OUTPUTS	1986	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
RECREATION (RVDs)							
Developed	201800	204560	201200	202000	198820	197100	199900
Dispersed	412597	441396	452639	460854	478198	492059	507282
ROS-Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized	33889	35922	36640	37373	38868	40034	41235
ROS-Semi-Primitive Motorized	23437	25288	31087	33167	42124	49576	55852
Roaded Natural	320567	323773	317297	318566	312195	309073	312164
Rural	6904	6973	6833	6860	6723	6656	6723
Primitive	229600	254000	261982	266888	277108	283820	291208
WILDERNESS							
Acres	1233676	1233676	1233676	1233676	1233676	1233676	1233676
Recreation Use (RVDs)	229600	254000	261982	266888	277108	283820	291208
RANGE							
Permitted Livestock Use (AUMs)	302805	302040	294753	294978	297104	300129	300168
Wild Horse & Burro Use (AUMs)	1471	1930	2452	3001	4097	4297	4530
WOODLAND PRODUCTS							
Fuelwood (Cords)	2786	2819	2873	2876	2893	2910	2965
X-Mas Trees (Trees)	1788	2077	2129	1713	1992	2122	2125
Pinenuts (Pounds)	26278	11552	8597	9548	8975	8975	8983
WATER & SOIL							
Water meeting Forest goals (M Acres Ft)	936000	963000	991000	101800	1058000	1100000	1167000
MINERALS							
Acres Leased (Acres)	91145	98186	101152	101680	102208	102208	102208
WILDLIFE (WFUDS)							
Total Use	149442	149790	150014	150637	151255	152148	152532
HCI * for MIS							
Deer	100	101	102	103	104	104	104
Sage Grouse	100	100	100	100	101	101	101
Goshawk	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Trout	100	100	100	100	101	101	101
BENEFITS (M Dollars)							
Recreation	1291.31	1321.09	1330.23	1338.57	1355.25	1380.27	1426.14
Wilderness	1773.64	2041.91	2126.70	2175.35	2282.38	2349.10	2425.55
Wildlife & Fish	4688.47	4696.81	4705.15	4776.00	4746.85	4774.65	4785.77
Range	4328.46	4328.46	4224.21	4226.99	4257.57	4300.66	4302.05
Woodland Products	21.68	21.68	20.85	20.02	20.57	20.71	15.93
Minerals	7861.84	8220.46	8615.22	7223.83	5337.60	3597.32	3597.32

* A measure of the habitat's ability to sustain a species over time. For example, a 10 acre increase in an area's ability to provide suitable habitat between 1986 and 1990 increases the HCI from 100 to 110.

TABLE II-5-B
RESOURCE ACTIVITIES & COSTS FOR ALTERNATIVE A
(SIG WILD./COMMODITY EMPHASIS)
(Undiscounted 1982 Dollars)

ACTIVITIES	1986	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
WILDLIFE & FISH							
Structural Habitat Impvt. (Structures)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Nonstructural Habitat Impvt. (Acres)	235	235	113	118	136	105	133
WOODLANDS							
Timber Stand Impvt. (Acres)	19	19	21	21	20	21	21
WATER & SOIL							
Improvement (Acres)	17	17	13	13	12	12	12
MINERALS							
Leases and Permits (Cases)	218	218	230	230	222	223	223
HUMAN & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT							
Senior Citizens (Enrollees)	8	8	41	41	83	83	124
Volunteers (Enrollees)	3	3	33	33	63	63	98
FACILITIES							
Trail Const. and Reconstruction (Miles)	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Arterial and Collector Road Reconstruction (Miles)	0.0	5.0	5.0	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5
COSTS (M Dollars)							
Total Budget	4431.32	4124.13	3998.75	4010.43	3761.06	3899.09	3063.99
Protection	187.08	187.82	189.82	190.37	190.93	191.33	192.50
General Administration	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59
Total Road Investments	532.37	154.29	199.60	241.30	214.48	267.71	243.99
Range Investments	189.04	204.33	209.33	256.32	175.14	182.92	104.53
Other Investments	41.70	9.73	9.45	10.00	26.83	20.43	16.22
Facilities (FA&O)	104.25	209.89	152.07	77.28	104.53	141.08	115.00
Operation & Maintenance	2487.28	2469.21	2348.32	2345.00	2160.11	2206.44	2042.71
Minerals	82.01	82.01	82.57	82.57	81.45	81.59	81.45
Non-Forest Service	68.11	115.37	121.49	130.10	66.58	55.88	63.57

ALTERNATIVE C - PNV

This alternative was designed to display the cost and benefits resulting from the production of a mix of commodity and noncommodity goods that provide the greatest net dollar return while recommending 57 percent of the roadless area acreage for wilderness.

Recreation

All developed sites will be managed at the full service level, and all the facilities will be maintained. The vegetation and soil resource on most developed sites will improve. Soil loss, sedimentation of streams and visual degradation will be reduced.

Dispersed recreation will be managed at a reduced service level. No new trails or trailheads will be built.

Travel plans will be implemented as presently established.

Knowledge of and ability to manage cultural resources will improve.

Recreation special uses will be administered to meet environmental and public service standards.

The cultural resource program would increase from the project level to include Forestwide inventory and evaluation. One property would be nominated to the National Register every 2 years until the potential is reached. Enhancement of properties would increase beyond project mitigation and protection.

Additional lands will be acquired if an opportunity arises to optimize Recreation.

Wilderness

This alternative recommends the following roadless areas be designated as wilderness areas:

AREA	ACRES
East Humboldt	18,500
Pearl Peak	11,656
Mount Moriah	60,700
South Schell	11,029
Wheeler Peak	51,700
Quinn	99,750
Ruby Mountains	55,600
Grant Range	43,100
Jarbidge	26,400
Copper Mountain	34,143
Highland Ridge	33,184
Duckwater	45,140
	490,902

The existing Jarbidge Wilderness Area will remain wilderness and be managed at a full service level. All other wilderness areas will be managed at a full service level. All other roadless areas will be managed for multiple uses other than wilderness.

Wildlife

Existing habitat of Federally listed threatened and endangered species will be improved and conflicts with other uses will not be permitted. Cooperation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife will continue on a limited basis to reintroduce the peregrine falcon. Habitat for sensitive species will be improved.

Aquatic habitat will be slightly improved. Big game winter range production will increase.

Hunted (MIS) will increase by the year 2030. All other MIS habitat will be maintained at levels that exceed minimum requirements for a viable population. This alternative provides for an estimated 153,300 WFUDs by the end of the planning period. The habitat capability will be improved for all MIS through the planning period.

Additional lands will be acquired if an opportunity arises to optimize wildlife habitat.

Range

Permitted AUMs will increase to 307,800 by the end of the planning period. The increase will be a result of improved range conditions.

Sensitive plant species will be maintained. Population and management of wild horses will increase. Noxious weed control, in cooperation with counties, will increase.

Riparian areas will be impacted less by livestock. Means for minimizing impacts will be included in allotment management plans. Areas of suitable range presently closed for protection of watersheds and for recreational uses will remain closed. Predator control will be allowed on grazing allotments where needed.

Woodland Products

The harvest of fuelwood and Christmas trees will decrease slightly during the planning horizon. Most of the harvesting will be completed to improve wildlife habitat.

Soil and Water

Water quality, soil productivity and soil quality will improve at a moderate level. Watershed improvements will occur at a moderate rate, yet current needs for watershed improvement will not be satisfied by the end of the planning period. Reductions in soil erosion will be moderate with watershed protection proceeding at a moderately high level through implementation of soil and water conservation measures. Soil and water resource inventory will continue as will present coordination with city, county and state agencies.

Additional lands will be acquired if an opportunity arises to optimze soil and water values.

Minerals

This alternative will allow increased mineral exploration under relaxed constraints. Withdrawals and legislative requirements will restrict mineral development on 720,197 acres.

Mineral cases (leasable and locatable) will remain stable at 226 cases per year during the planning period.

Development of gas and oil resources will temporarily compromise visual quality, especially during the drilling phase. Relaxed constraints will increase exploration.

Requests for seismic exploration will continue as efforts intensify to determine geologic structure over the next 20 years.

Locatable mineral activity and interest in geothermal exploration will increase. Operating plans will require rehabilitation of sites disturbed by mineral activity.

Fire Protection

Fire protection will be concentrated on high production market output areas. Prescribed burning from both planned and unplanned ignitions will be used extensively to create diversified Forest conditions and improve wildlife habitat.

Lands

National Forest System ownership will increase. Lands will be acquired that produce a mix of commodity and noncommodity outputs.

Offers for land exchanges will be responded to within 3 months.

Four rights-of-way will be acquired for resource programs.

Standards for dam inspections will be met. Permittees will be notified of deficiencies, and emergency preparedness and operating plans will be prepared for each dam.

Additional electronic sites will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Utilities will be allowed in corridors evaluated as suitable.

Special Areas

Five RNAs will be proposed for designation.

Facilities

This alternative provides for adequate maintenance, repair and replacement of all essential buildings and associated water and sewer systems throughout the planning period. All essential facilitites will be brought into compliance with and maintained to appropriate health and safety standards. Replacement of warehousing facilities in Elko will occur between 1991 and 1995. Building and facilities not needed for resource activities will be removed or otherwise disposed of.

Transportation

A program will be developed to provide a safe and economical road system to meet resource needs and outputs.

Two hundred and forty-seven miles of arterial and collector roads will be reconstructed during the planning period. The only local road construction or reconstruction occurring during the planning period will be done by commercial users. Commercial users may also do some reconstruction of arterial and collector roads.

Bridge replacements will be accomplished through the Regional Bridge Replacement Program.

Road maintenance efforts will be concentrated on the arterial and collector system and those local roads critical to resource activities. Many of the local roads will receive little, if any, maintenance. Some of these local roads will deteriorate and may cause environmental degradation. A few of these local roads may eventually become impassable. Maintenance levels for roads will be determined by the road management program.

Traffic may be restricted on roads that have not been constructed to an all-weather standard.

Visuals

The VQOs for this alternative will be:

CATEGORY	ALTERNATIVE C (M ACRES)	M ACRES CHANGE FROM PRESENT INVENTORY
Preservation	746	230
Retention	80	- 4
Partial Retention	200	- 226
Modification	822	0
Maximum Modification	680	0

Law Enforcement

Increasing public use of the Forest will produce more law enforcement problems. The Forest will continue cooperative law enforcement agreements with local law enforcement agencies.

TABLE II-6-A
RESOURCE OUTPUTS & BENEFITS FOR ALTERNATIVE C
(PNV)
(1982 Dollars and Discount Rate of 4%)

OUTPUTS	1986	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
RECREATION (RVDs)							
Developed	201800	206560	203700	205000	202320	201100	204900
Dispersed	400068	436082	446407	452596	466277	478415	492289
ROS-Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized	33889	36600	37332	37705	38836	39613	40801
ROS-Semi-Primitive Motorized	87397	94760	98449	100220	108647	118856	125284
Roaded Natural	320567	326978	323708	326945	323675	320438	326847
Rural	6904	7042	6972	7042	6972	6902	7040
Primitive	153111	177262	183646	185684	190467	193706	197217
WILDERNESS							
Acres	713786	713786	713786	713786	713786	713786	713786
Recreation Use (RVDs)	153111	177262	183646	185684	190467	193706	197217
RANGE							
Permitted Livestock Use (AUMs)	301818	302753	297668	198732	302188	307112	307753
Wild Horse & Burro Use (AUMs)	1471	1648	2151	2613	3611	3811	4044
WOODLAND PRODUCTS							
Fuelwood (Cords)	3770	3808	3925	3928	3965	3991	4030
X-Mas Trees (Trees)	2141	2627	2696	2180	2512	2710	2752
Pinenuts (Pounds)	26608	11882	9022	8984	9483	9483	9483
WATER & SOIL							
Water meeting Forest goals (M Acres Ft)	936000	963000	977000	1004000	1031000	1072000	126000
MINERALS							
Acres Leased (Acres)	249446	275300	271942	272694	273466	273466	273466
WILDLIFE (WFUDS)							
Total Use	149456	149742	150040	150834	151902	152750	153281
HCI for MIS							
Deer	100	100	101	102	104	105	105
Sage grouse	100	100	100	101	101	101	101
Goshawk	100	100	100	100	101	101	101
Trout	100	100	100	100	100	101	101
BENEFITS (M Dollars)							
Recreation	1485.91	1555.41	1559.58	1580.43	1606.84	1640.20	1698.53
Wilderness	1114.78	1381.66	1449.77	1466.45	1513.71	1544.29	1579.04
Wildlife & Fish	4702.37	4712.10	4723.22	4746.85	4781.60	4808.01	4824.69
Range	4325.68	4338.19	4265.91	4281.20	4331.24	4400.74	4410.47
Woodland Products	28.63	28.63	29.47	29.75	30.72	30.86	30.77
Minerals	8081.46	8466.49	8852.91	7461.52	5669.81	3835.01	3835.01

TABLE II-6-B
RESOURCE ACTIVITIES & COSTS FOR ALTERNATIVE C
(PNV)
(Undiscounted 1982 Dollars)

ACTIVITIES	1986	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
WILDLIFE & FISH							
Structural Habitat Impvt. (structures)	5	5	4	4	4	4	4
Nonstructural Habitat Impvt. (Acres)	221	221	92	102	108	94	122
WOODLANDS							
Timber Stand Impvt. (Acres)	24	24	45	40	40	43	43
WATER & SOIL							
Improvement (Acres)	12	12	11	11	9	9	9
MINERALS							
Leases and Permits (Cases)	226	226	235	233	225	227	227
HUMAN & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT							
Senior Citizens (Enrollees)	8	8	41	41	83	83	124
Volunteers (Enrollees)	8	8	45	45	90	93	140
FACILITIES							
Trail Const. and Reconstruction (Miles)	7.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Arterial and Collector Road Reconstruciton (Miles)	0.0	0.0	5.2	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.5
COSTS (M Dollars)							
Total Budget	3726.59	3782.19	3787.75	3636.52	3475.56	3516.42	3294.11
Protection	187.08	187.08	189.82	190.37	190.93	191.33	192.50
General Administration	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59
Total Road Investments	0.00	0.00	172.36	169.02	169.86	172.64	169.86
Range Investments	202.94	218.23	222.96	274.94	185.15	195.30	128.25
Other Investments	45.87	72.28	14.73	16.12	31.41	25.44	20.85
Facilities (FA&O)	104.25	136.22	172.92	77.28	104.53	141.08	115.00
Operation & Maintenance	2294.07	2276.00	2122.86	2017.24	1903.25	1899.78	1776.85
Minerals	84.79	84.79	84.51	83.96	82.84	83.26	83.21
Non-Forest Service	70.89	120.93	129.27	132.61	52.82	48.65	68.67

ALTERNATIVE D - CURRENT BUDGET

This alternative predicts the level of goods and services expected to be produced if current management direction remains unchanged, and if personnel and funding remain at the present level.

Recreation

All developed sites will be managed at a reduced service level and the number of usable public facilities will decline. Reconstruction will not replace worn-out and vandalized facilities, and no new facilities will be built. The vegetation and soil resource on most developed sites will continue to deteriorate. Erosion, sedimentation of streams and visual degradation will result. The condition of developed and dispersed recreation facilities will decline until many closures are necessary. Overall, the quality of Forest recreation experiences will decline. No new trails or trailheads will be built, and there will be no trail reconstruction.

Knowledge of and ability to manage cultural resources will remain at a low level. The cultural resource program would address project related work only based on issues, values, and risks. No Forestwide inventory would be conducted outside of project level work. Only one property would be nominated to the National Register every 5 years until potential is reached. Enhancement of properties would be done only after meeting project mitigation and protection needs.

This alternative will not meet the projected demand for public developed recreation.

Recreation special uses will be administered to meet environmental and public service standards.

Wilderness

This alternative recommends the following roadless areas be designated as wilderness:

AREA	ACRES
Mount Moriah	60,700
Wheeler Peak	51,700
Ruby Mountains	55,600
Jarbidge	26,400
Highland Ridge	33,184
	194,400

The Jarbidge Wilderness Area will remain as wilderness. All the wilderness areas will be managed and operated at a reduced service level. All other roadless areas will be managed for multiple uses other than wilderness. There will be minimal trail reconstruction.

Trail conditions will continue to deteriorate. Service to visitors will be minimal.

Wildlife

Present habitat of Federally listed threatened and endangered species will be enhanced and conflicts with other uses will not be permitted. Cooperation with Nevada Department of Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will continue on a limited basis to reintroduce the peregrine falcon. Habitat for sensitive fish species will be improved.

Riparian habitat will be maintained but not directly improved. Productivity of big game winter range will decrease slightly because of limits placed on the habitat improvement program.

Hunted MIS will decrease slightly. This alternative provides for an estimated 146,700 WFUDs by the year 2030. The habitat capability will be maintained for sage grouse and trout and decline slightly for deer and goshawk through the planning period.

Range

The AUMs will gradually decline throughout the planning horizon because budgets will be inadequate to maintain deteriorating nonstructural range improvements. The decrease in production of AUMs could be eliminated by (1) increased budgets, (2) reconstruction of range improvements by permittees, (3) acceptance of a lower condition standard for the range resource and (4) changes in allotment management systems.

Sensitive plant species will be protected. Wild horse use will increase throughout the planning period. Noxious weed control will continue at the current level and will be coordinated with the counties.

Riparian areas will continue to be adversely affected, but the means for reducing impacts will be written into allotment management plans. Livestock and big game on winter ranges will continue their common use of forage. Areas closed for watershed or recreational purposes will remain closed. Predator control will be allowed on grazing allotments where needed.

Woodland Products

The harvest of fuelwood and Christmas trees will increase slightly.

Soil and Water

Water quality, soil productivity and soil quality will improve at a low level. Watershed improvements will occur at a low rate, and will not meet current needs by the end of the planning period. Soil erosion will increase, with watershed protection operating at a very low level through limited implementation of soil and water conservation measures. Soil and water resource inventory will continue at a reduced level, as will coordination with city, county and state agencies.

Minerals

Applications for oil and gas leases will be evaluated according to current District-wide environmental analysis, and appropriate recommendations will be forwarded to the Bureau of Land Management. Development of oil and gas leases and locatable mineral operation proposals will be evaluated carefully on a case-by-case basis through the environmental assessment process. Timely processing of exploration and development proposals will be emphasized, with a priority on energy minerals. Present organization and funding will allow proper evaluation of 201 proposals per year. Additional applications will not be handled properly or will be delayed for evaluation the following year.

Withdrawals and legislative requirements will restrict mineral development on 336,689 acres.

Development of gas and oil resources will temporarily compromise scenic quality, particularly during the drilling phase. Adequate technology exists to rehabilitate sites disturbed by mineral extraction, and rehabilitation will be required in operating plans. Requests to permit seismic exploration will continue as efforts intensify to determine geologic structure during the next 20 years. Locatable mineral activity and interest in geothermal exploration will increase. The number of operations may exceed the capacity of the organization.

Fire Protection

An appropriate suppression response will be made on all wildfires. Prescribed fire will be used for disposal of slash and for range and wildlife habitat improvement. Fire fighting resources will continue to be pooled with those of other agencies to achieve the most efficient control program at the least cost.

Lands

During the planning period, National Forest System ownership will increase. The Forest will acquire and dispose of lands as authorized in the current land adjustment plan.

All offers for land exchange will be responded to within 12 months, and one land exchange will be completed every third year.

Two rights-of-way will be acquired for resource programs.

Existing electronic sites will be maintained. Utilities will be allowed in corridors evaluated as suitable.

Special Areas

Five RNAs will be proposed for designation on the Forest.

Facilities

This alternative provides for adequate maintenance, repair and replacement of all essential buildings and associated water and sewer systems throughout the planning period. All essential facilities will be brought into compliance with and maintained to appropriate health and safety standards. Replacement of warehousing facilities in Elko will occur between 1991 and 1995. Buildings and facilities not needed for resource activities will be removed or disposed of.

Transportation

A program will be developed to provide a safe and economical road system to meet resource needs and outputs.

Two hundred miles of arterial and collector roads will be reconstructed during the planning period. The only local road construction or reconstruction occurring during the planning period will be done by commercial users. Commercial users may also do some reconstruction of arterial and collector roads.

Bridge replacements will be accomplished through the Regional Bridge Replacement Program.

Road maintenance efforts will be concentrated on the arterial and collector system, and those local roads critical to resource management activities. Many local roads will receive little, if any, maintenance. Some local roads will deteriorate and may cause environmental degradation. A few local roads may eventually become impassable. Maintenance levels for roads will be determined by the road maintenance program.

Traffic may be restricted on roads that have not been constructed to an all-weather standard.

Visuals

The VQOs for this alternative will be:

CATEGORY	ALTERNATIVE D (M ACRES)	M ACRES CHANGE FROM PRESENT INVENTORY
Preservation	362	154
Retention	84	0
Partial Retention	580	154
Modification	822	0
Maximum Modification	680	0

Law Enforcement

Increasing public use of the Forest will increase law enforcement problems. Cooperative law enforcement agreements with local enforcement agencies will continue.

TABLE II-7-A
RESOURCE OUTPUTS & BENEFITS FOR ALTERNATIVE D
(CURRENT BUDGET)
(1982 Dollars and Discount Rate of 4%)

OUTPUTS	1986	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
RECREATION (RVDs)							
Developed	190800	171800	165700	159700	153200	149200	146900
Dispersed	388543	407924	415888	421716	434861	445581	456603
ROS-Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized	33809	35583	36295	36658	37758	38513	39668
ROS-Semi-Primitive Motorized	129731	99385	111289	122361	138696	152199	166022
Roaded Natural	320567	326595	323131	310206	297798	288864	283087
Rural	6904	7249	6959	6681	6414	6222	6098
Primitive	88252	100912	103914	105510	107385	108983	110628
WILDERNESS							
Acres	330278	330278	330278	330278	330278	330278	330278
Recreation Use (RVDs)	88252	100912	103914	105510	107385	108983	110628
RANGE							
Permitted Livestock Use (AUMs)	301875	299607	291692	289179	289526	291670	289756
Wild Horse & Burro Use (AUMs)	1471	2203	2904	3616	5259	5837	6778
WOODLAND PRODUCTS							
Fuelwood (Cords)	4360	4375	4515	4525	4560	4586	4638
X-Mas Trees (Trees)	2698	4703	4067	3089	3583	3760	3766
Pinenuts (Pounds)	28379	14252	9144	9219	9682	9682	9682
WATER & SOIL							
Water meeting Forest goals (M Acres Ft)	936000	950000	950000	963000	977000	1004000	1031000
MINERALS							
Acres Leased (Acres)	336659	365168	373866	378867	383867	383057	383867
WILDLIFE (WFUDS)							
Total Use	149462	149764	149429	148382	148111	147106	146650
HCI for MIS							
Deer	100	100	99	99	99	98	98
Sage Grouse	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Goshawk	100	100	100	100	100	99	98
Trout	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
BENEFITS (M Dollars)							
Recreation	1559.58	1506.876	1505.37	1502.59	1526.22	1555.84	1597.11
Wilderness	667.20	808.98	839.56	054.85	874.31	888.21	904.39
Wildlife & Fish	4717.66	4717.66	4717.66	4684.30	4673.18	4643.99	4630.09
Range	4325.68	4293.71	4179.73	4143.59	4149.15	4150.73	4151.93
Woodland Products	31.48	32.25	34.75	32.80	33.78	35.17	35.31
Minerals	8203.78	8591.59	0994.69	7608.86	6217.47	3989.30	3989.30

TABLE II-7-B
RESOURCE ACTIVITIES & COSTS FOR ALTERNATIVE D
(CURRENT BUDGET)
(Undiscounted 1982 Dollars)

ACTIVITIES	1986	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
WILDLIFE & FISH							
Structural Habitat Impvt. (Structures)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nonstructural Habitat Impvt. (Acres)	92	92	61	72	72	72	80
WOODLANDS							
Timber Stand Impvt. (Acres)	29	29	59	53	48	51	52
WATER & SOIL							
Improvement (Acres)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
MINERALS							
Leases and Permits (Cases)	210	210	209	209	201	201	201
HUMAN & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT							
Senior Citizens (Enrollees)	8	8	41	41	83	83	124
Volunteers (Enrollees)	5	5	33	33	63	63	95
FACILITIES							
Trail Const. and Reconstruction (Miles)	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Arterial and Collector Road Reconstruction (Miles)	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
COSTS (M Dollars)							
Total Budget	3044.10	3048.27	3047.44	3047.44	3058.00	3050.63	3013.89
Protection	187.08	187.08	189.82	190.37	190.93	191.33	192.50
General Administration	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59
Total Road Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00	151.51	151.51	151.51	151.51
Range Investments	158.46	151.51	167.91	194.60	156.24	170.41	100.17
Other Investments	6.95	6.95	5.83	6.67	5.98	5.84	6.02
Facilities (FA&O)	104.25	157.07	120.65	77.28	104.53	141.08	115.00
Operation & Maintenance	1704.71	1661.62	1681.41	1545.47	1568.38	1509.89	1568.08
Minerals	75.06	76.45	74.23	73.95	72.84	72.98	73.02
Non-Forest Service	70.89	123.71	124.27	131.77	48.79	38.64	60.23

ALTERNATIVE E - CONSTRAINED BUDGET

This alternative provides custodial management. No new construction will be undertaken. Under this alternative, the budget will be 25 percent less than the FY 1982 budget. Some outputs will decrease due to deteriorating improvements.

Recreation

All of the developed sites will be closed. No facilities will be built or reconstructed. Dispersed recreation will be managed at a severely reduced service level. No trailheads or trails will be built or reconstructed. Trails will be maintained at Level 1. Trail conditions will decline, causing some soil loss and stream sedimentation. Many trails will deteriorate to the point where closure will be necessary. The vegetation and soil resource on most developed sites will continue the present trend of deterioration. Some soil loss, sedimentation of streams and visual degradation will result. The quality of Forest recreation experiences will decline.

Knowledge of and ability to manage cultural resources will drop below the low level. The cultural resource program would be project related only based on issues, values, and risks, with maximum use of paraprofessionals. No Forestwide inventory would be conducted. No property would be nominated to the National Register. No interpretive programs or enhancement would be conducted; protection would be accomplished at the project level only.

Recreation special uses will be regulated to meet minimum environmental and public service standards.

Wilderness

Only the existing Jarbidge Wilderness will be retained.

Trails within the wilderness will be maintained to the minimal level. No trails will be built or rebuilt.

Trail conditions will deteriorate. Service to visitors will deteriorate.

Wildlife

Present habitat of Federally listed threatened and endangered species will be improved, and conflicts with these species will not be permitted. There will be no direct habitat improvement or cooperative efforts to reintroduce the peregrine falcon. No habitat improvement for sensitive species will be scheduled.

Existing aquatic habitat will be maintained, but riparian habitat will deteriorate from its present condition. Production on big game winter range will decrease in the absence of a habitat improvement program.

Hunted MIS will decrease. Fisheries production will remain at current levels. This alternative provides for production of an estimated 145,200 WFUDs by the end of the planning horizon. The current habitat capability for MIS will not be maintained through the planning period.

Range

Production of AUMs will remain at 250,000 throughout the planning period.

Sensitive plant species will be protected. Wild horse use will reach 6,778 AUMs by the end of the planning period. Management of riparian areas will be specified in allotment management plans but will be implemented slowly under this alternative.

The noxious weed control program will be reduced. Areas closed to grazing to protect watersheds or recreational uses will remain closed. Predator control will be allowed on grazing allotments where needed.

Woodland Products

Harvest of fuelwood will remain at 600 cords anually. Harvest of Christmas trees will increase during the planning period.

Minerals

Withdrawals and legislative requirements will affect mineral development on 71,061 acres.

Organization and funding will allow proper evaluation of 186 applications and operating plans by the end of the planning horizon. Additional applications will not be handled properly or responses will be delayed. Locatable mineral activity and interest in geothermal exploration will increase.

Mineral development may temporarily degrade scenic quality, particularly during the drilling phase. Administration of operating plans will be minimal; therefore rehabilitation may not occur on all sites disturbed by mineral activity.

Soil and Water

Water quality will improve slightly, however soil productivity and soil quality will decrease slightly. Watershed improvements will occur at a low rate, and will not meet current needs by the end of the planning period. Soil erosion will increase, with watershed protection proceeding at a very low level through limited implementation of soil and water conservation measures. Soil and water resource inventory will continue at a very reduced level, as will coordination with city, county and state agencies.

Fire Protection

Firefighting forces will be reduced. This will necessitate greater reliance on support from other agencies. An increase in resources lost through wildfires will result.

Lands

No lands will be acquired either through exchange or purchase under this alternative.

Dams will be inspected, but funds may be inadequate to ensure correction of all dam deficiencies.

No new electronic sites will be designated.

Special use administration will be inadequate, creating environmental and social problems.

There will be no review of land withdrawals.

Utilities will be allowed in corridors evaluated as suitable.

Special Areas

Three areas will be proposed for designation as Research Natural Areas on the Forest.

Facilities

This alternative will provide for adequate maintenance, repair and replacement of only a few buildings and associated water and sewer systems that are essential to custodial management. These few facilities will be brought into compliance with and maintained to appropriate health and safety standards. Most of the facilities on the Forest would not be maintained and would rapidly deteriorate. These facilities would eventually have to be removed or otherwise disposed of. Warehousing facilities in Elko would not be replaced under this alternative.

Transportation

The road system will deteriorate under this alternative. There will be no construction or reconstruction of arterial, collector or local roads on the Forest, except by commercial users. Road maintenance efforts will be reduced and will emphasize keeping the arterial and collector roads open. User safety and comfort will decrease and road related environmental degradation will develop throughout the system. Many roads in the system will receive no maintenance and will slowly deteriorate. Some roads will eventually become impassable.

The maintenance levels for roads will be determined by the road management program. Traffic may be restricted on roads not constructed to an all-weather standard.

Bridge replacements will be accomplished through the Regional Bridge Replacement Program.

Visuals

The VQOs for this alternative will be:

CATEGORY	ALTERNATIVE E (M ACRES)	M ACRES CHANGE FROM PRESENT INVENTORY
Preservation	269	- 247
Retention	104	20
Partial Retention	653	227
Modification	822	0
Maximum Modification	680	0

Law Enforcement

The public's increasing use of the Forest will result in the need for increased law enforcement. The Forest will continue agreements for cooperative law enforcement with local police agencies.

Damage from ORVs will increase, and protection for watersheds will not be adequate. Unauthorized use and trespass will increase.

TABLE II-8-A
RESOURCE OUTPUTS & BENEFITS FOR ALTERNATIVE E
(CONSTRAINED BUDGET)
(Undiscounted 1982 Dollars)

OUTPUTS	1986	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
RECREATION (RVDs)							
Developed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dispersed	225900	225900	237700	245300	261100	273600	287000
ROS-Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized	33889	33889	35571	36673	37809	39536	41322
ROS-Semi-Primitive Motorized	57340	57340	60602	62439	72722	77043	81730
Roaded Natural	118767	118767	124623	128484	132465	138517	144984
Rural	6904	6904	6904	6904	6904	6904	6904
Primitive	9000	9000	10000	10800	11200	11600	12000
WILDERNESS							
Acres	64667	64667	64667	64667	64667	64667	64667
Recreation Use (RVDs)	9000	9000	10000	10800	11200	11600	12000
RANGE							
Permitted Livestock Use (AUMs)	250000	250000	250000	250000	250000	250000	250000
Wild Horse & Burro Use (AUMs)	1471	2203	2904	3616	5259	5837	6778
WOODLAND PRODUCTS							
Fuelwood (Cords)	600	600	600	600	600	600	600
X-Mas Trees (Trees)	1600	1600	1800	1800	1800	2000	2000
Pinenuts (Pounds)	4500	4500	4500	4500	4500	4500	4500
WATER & SOIL							
Water meeting Forest goals (M Acres Ft)	936000	950000	950000	963000	977000	1004000	1018000
MINERALS							
Acres Leased (Acres)	361826	395827	406828	411829	416829	416829	416829
WILDLIFE (WFUDS)							
Total Use	149600	149600	149200	147800	147300	145900	145200
HCI for MIS							
Deer	100	99	97	97	97	95	94
Sage Grouse	100	99	99	98	98	98	98
Goshawk	100	100	100	100	99	98	98
Trout	100	100	100	100	99	98	98
BENEFITS (M Dollars)							
Recreation	924.35	959.10	991.07	1023.04	1089.76	1141.19	1196.79
Wilderness	93.13	104.25	111.20	119.54	125.10	129.27	88.96
Wildlife & Fish	4730.17	4731.56	4717.66	4603.00	4659.28	4612.02	4592.56
Range	3583.42	3583.42	3582.86	3582.86	3582.72	3582.72	3582.77
Woodland Products	6.95	6.95	8.34	8.34	8.34	8.34	8.34
Minerals	8258.53	8634.68	9040.56	7654.73	6263.34	4035.77	4035.77

TABLE II-8-B
RESOURCE ACTIVITIES & COSTS FOR ALTERNATIVE E
(CONSTRAINED BUDGET)
(Undiscounted 1982 Dollars)

ACTIVITIES	1986	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
WILDLIFE & FISH							
Structural Habitat Impvt. (Structures)	2	2	3	3	3	3	3
Nonstructural Habitat Impvt. (Acres)	59	59	59	59	59	59	59
WOODLANDS							
Timber Stand Impvt. (Acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WATER & SOIL							
Improvement (Acres)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
MINERALS							
Leases and Permits (Cases)	202	202	190	190	188	186	186
HUMAN & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT							
Senior Citizens (Enrollees)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Volunteers (Enrollees)	3	3	15	15	30	30	45
FACILITIES							
Trail Const. and Reconstruction (Miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arterial and Collector Road Reconstruction (Miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COSTS (M Dollars)							
Total Budget	2224.00	2224.00	2224.00	2224.00	2224.00	2224.00	2244.00
Protection	182.03	182.03	184.69	185.23	185.77	186.16	187.30
General Administration	737.81	737.81	737.81	737.81	737.81	737.81	737.81
Total Road Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Range Investments	9.73	9.73	15.57	11.68	11.68	11.82	10.01
Other Investments	6.95	6.95	6.95	6.95	6.95	6.95	6.95
Facilities (FAMO)	0.00	0.00	27.80	27.80	27.80	27.80	27.80
Operation & Maintenance	1286.09	1286.09	1250.07	1253.42	1253.02	1252.49	1253.11
Minerals	1.39	1.39	1.11	1.11	0.97	0.97	1.02
Non-Forest Service	50.04	83.40	90.90	99.52	38.36	30.44	44.11

ALTERNATIVE F - RPA (1985 Update)

The RPA (Resources Planning Act) Alternative directs management efforts and budget toward supplying or developing the Forest's share of the resource outputs called for by the Intermountain Region Regional Guide. Under this alternative, outputs for most resources will increase.

Recreation

Developed sites will be managed at the full service level and the number of public facilities will increase. A few new facilities will be constructed and some older ones will be reconstructed. The condition of developed and dispersed recreation facilities will improve. The vegetation and soil on most developed sites will improve. Erosion, sedimentation of streams, and visual degradation will be minimized. Dispersed recreation will be managed at the full service level. Some new trails and trailheads will be constructed/reconstructed. Trail conditions should improve. Travel plans will continue to be implemented as established. The quality of Forest recreation will improve. Use will shift towards developed recreation.

This alternative will provide additional facilities to meet demands for developed recreation through the planning period. The supply for dispersed recreation will exceed the demand throughout the planning horizon. Supply of developed recreation will meet demand throughout the planning period. Recreation special uses will meet environmental and public service standards.

Knowledge of and ability to manage cultural resources will improve. The cultural resource program would increase from the project level to include Forestwide inventory and evaluation. One property would be nominated to the National Register every two years until potential is reached. Enhancement of properties would increase beyond project mitigation and protection.

Additional lands will be acquired if an opportunity arises to optimize recreation.

Wilderness

This alternative recommends the following areas be designated as wilderness:

AREA	ACRES
Wheeler Peak	51,700
Ruby Mountains	55,600
Jarbidge	26,400
	133,700

The existing Jarbidge Wilderness Area will be managed at the full service level. The remaining wilderness areas will be managed at a reduced service level. All other roadless areas will be managed for multiple uses other than wilderness.

Wildlife

Adverse effects on Federally listed threatened and endangered species habitat will not be permitted. Habitat for the peregrine falcon will be expanded to maximum potential through a cooperative reintroduction program. Habitat for sensitive species, especially for aquatic species, will be improved.

Big game winter ranges will be improved through a considerably expanded program of habitat improvement. Riparian habitat will also be enhanced through direct improvement and increased coordination with grazing mangement.

Hunted and fished MIS will all increase over current levels, in particularly fish species. This alternative provides an estimated 153,470 WFUDs by the year 2030. The habitat capability will be maintained for goshawk and increased for deer, sage grouse and trout.

Additional lands will be acquired if an opportunity arises to optimize wildlife habitat values.

Range

Permitted AUMs will increase to 334,000 by the end of the planning horizon. This increase will result through stocking vacant allotments, upward adjustment of numbers permitted on some allotments in satisfactory or better condition, and a slight increase in recreational use of horses.

Sensitive plant species will be maintained. Wild horse use will reach 3311 AUMs by the end of the planning horizon. Noxious weed control in cooperation with the counties will be increased over the current level. Impacts on riparian areas by grazing will be reduced. Means for mitigating impacts will be included in allotment management plans. Areas now closed to grazing for watershed protection will remain closed. Common use of forage by livestock and big game on winter range will continue. Predator control will be allowed on grazing allotments where needed.

Woodland Products

Harvest of fuelwood will increase from 6500 cords to 7000 cords during the life of the Plan. The supply of fuelwood will meet the demand througout the planning horizon. Christmas tree harvest will increase from 4500 trees in 1986 to 5200 trees in the year 2030. Pinenut harvest will remain stable after the first period.

Increased road construction will allow for better access and more harvesting of fuelwood.

Soil and Water

Water quality, soil productivity, and soil quality will improve at a high level. Watershed improvements will occur at a maximum rate, with current needs for watershed improvement being satisfied by the year 2000. Reductions in soil erosion will be high, with watershed protection proceeding at a high level through implementation of soil and water conservation measures. Soil and water resource inventory will continue as will present coordination with city, county and state agencies.

Additional lands will be acquired as needed to optimize soil and water values.

Minerals

Applications for oil and gas leases will be evaluated by current District-wide environmental analysis, and appropriate recommendations will be forwarded to the Bureau of Land Management. Development of oil and gas leases and proposals for operating mining claims will be evaluated carefully on a case-by-case basis through the environmental analysis process. Prompt processing of proposals for exploration and development will be emphasized; priority will be given to leasable energy minerals. Future organization and funding will allow for proper evaluation of 295 proposals annually by 1995.

Withdrawals and legislative requirements will constrain mineral development on 221,762 acres.

Mineral developments will temporarily compromise scenic quality, especially during the drilling phase in partial retention and retention VQO areas. Mitigation will reduce the impact.

Rehabilitation of sites disturbed by mineral extraction will be included in operating plans. The technology already exists to rehabilitate such sites. Requests for seismic exploration will continue as efforts intensify to determine geologic structure over the next 20 years. Locatable mineral claim activity and interest in geothermal exploration will increase.

Fire Protection

An appropriate suppression response will be made on all wildfires. Firefighting resources will continue to be pooled with those of other agencies to achieve the most efficient control program at the least cost. The use of prescribed fires will increase, particularly in the range and wildlife resource areas.

Lands

National Forest ownership will be increased through exchanges or acquisitions. All offers of land exchange will be responded to within three months, and two land exchanges a year will be completed.

Four rights-of-way will be acquired for resource programs.

Standards for dam inspections will be met and permittees will be notified of deficiencies and required to correct them.

If the need requires additional electronic sites they will be approved.

Utilities will be allowed in corridors evaluated as suitable.

Special Areas

Five areas on the Forest will be nominated as Research Natural Areas. The natural condition of these areas will be protected.

Facilities

This alternative provides for adequate maintenance, repair and replacement of all essential buildings and associated water and sewer systems throughout the planning period. All essential facilities will be brought into compliance with and maintained to appropriate health and safety standards. Replacement of warehousing facilities in Elko will start in 1989 and be completed in 1992. Buildings and facilities not needed for resource activities will be removed or disposed of.

Transportation

A program will be developed to provide a safe, economical and environmentally sound road system to meet increased resource needs and outputs.

Three hundred and sixty-one miles of arterial and collector roads will be reconstructed during the planning period. Four hundred and seventeen miles of local road construction and reconstruction will also occur during the planning period. Some additional road construction and reconstruction will be done by commercial users.

Most of the bridge replacements are scheduled and funded within the Forest budget under this alternative. A few bridge replacements will be accomplished through the Regional Bridge Replacement Program.

Road maintenance efforts will be concentrated on the arterial and collector system, and local roads needed for increased resource activities. Some local roads will receive little, if any, maintenance. A few local roads will deteriorate and may eventually become impassable. Maintenance levels for roads will be determined by the road management program.

Traffic may be restricted on roads not constructed to an all-weather standard.

Visuals

The Visual quality objectives will be:

CATEGORY	ALTERNATIVE F (M ACRES)	M ACRES CHANGE FROM PRESENT INVENTORY
Preservation	248	- 268
Retention	104	20
Partial Retention	674	248
Modification	822	0
Maximum Modification	680	0

Law Enforcement

Increasing public use of the Forest will result in more law enforcement problems. Cooperative law enforcement agreements with local law enforcement agencies will be continued.

TABLE II-9-A
RESOURCE OUTPUTS & BENEFITS FOR ALTERNATIVE F
(RPA - 1985 UPDATE)
(Undiscounted 1982 Dollars)

OUTPUTS	1986	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
RECREATION (RVDs)							
Developed	225800	234469	241636	253845	264120	268900	280000
Dispersed	398797	439513	455082	465537	489759	505054	521892
ROS-Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized	33889	36939	38047	38808	40748	41970	43229
ROS-Semi-Primitive Motorized	243757	267005	276122	280209	297750	300589	319491
Roaded Natural	320567	333390	343392	360562	374984	382484	397783
Rural	6904	7180	7395	7765	8076	8237	8566
Primitive	19480	29468	31762	32038	32321	32674	32823
WILDERNESS							
Acres	215351	215351	215321	215351	215351	215351	215351
Recreation Use (RVDs)	19480	29468	31762	32038	32321	32674	32823
RANGE							
Permitted Livestock Use (AUMs)	301734	307859	309216	315708	326780	332611	334000
Wild Horse & Burro Use (AUMs)	1471	1531	1990	2397	3250	3287	3311
WOODLAND PRODUCTS							
Fuelwood (Cords)	6505	6602	6802	6838	6870	6911	7049
X-Mas Trees (Trees)	4201	5834	5408	4393	4995	5215	5197
Pinenuts (Pounds)	48604	16418	12078	12312	12588	12588	12584
WATER & SOIL							
Water meeting Forest goals (M Acres Ft)	936000	1070000	1153000	1234000	1331000	1357000	1357000
MINERALS							
Acres Leased (Acres)	335382	365291	375218	377725	380232	380232	380232
WILDLIFE (WFUDS)							
Total Use	149461	149737	149992	150815	151843	152735	153470
HCI for MIS							
Deer	100	100	101	102	104	105	106
Sage Grouse	100	100	100	100	101	102	102
Goshawk	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Trout	100	100	100	100	100	101	102
BENEFITS (M Dollars)							
Recreation	1941.83	2107.24	2190.64	2280.99	2421.38	2502.00	2615.98
Wilderness	151.51	262.71	287.73	289.12	290.51	293.29	293.29
Wildlife & Fish	4727.39	4737.12	4744.07	4773.26	4803.84	4830.25	2855.27
Range	4324.29	4411.86	4431.32	4524.45	4682.91	4766.31	4787.16
Woodland Products	54.21	51.43	50.32	48.09	49.62	49.76	51.24
Minerals	8201.00	8591.59	8927.97	7539.36	6017.31	3915.63	3915.63

TABLE II-9-B
RESOURCE ACTIVITIES & COSTS FOR ALTERNATIVE F
(RPA - 1985 UPDATE)
(Undiscounted 1982 Dollars)

ACTIVITIES	1986	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
WILDLIFE & FISH							
Structural Habitat Impvt. (Structures)	13	13	7	9	7	7	7
Nonstructural Habitat Impvt. (Acres)	277	277	138	77	122	113	97
WOODLANDS							
Timber Stand Impvt. (Acres)	96	96	114	109	116	120	121
WATER & SOIL							
Improvement (Acres)	74	74	46	45	27	25	27
MINERALS							
Leases and Permits (Cases)	294	294	298	298	302	299	295
HUMAN & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT							
Senior Citizens (Enrollees)	8	8	41	41	83	83	124
Volunteers (Enrollees)	10	10	55	55	110	110	165
FACILITIES							
Trail Const. and Reconstruction (Miles)	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
Arterial and Collector Road Reconstruction (Miles)	0.0	5.0	7.1	8.5	8.6	8.6	6.7
COSTS (M Dollars)							
Total Budget	6610.84	5917.23	5469.09	5383.19	4994.96	5131.74	4575.51
Protection	200.15	200.15	203.11	203.70	204.30	204.72	205.98
General Administration	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59
Total Road Investments	970.22	396.15	365.29	405.88	386.14	439.38	339.25
Range Investments	284.95	425.34	317.88	393.65	254.37	265.21	250.20
Other Investments	123.39	207.11	119.26	91.18	92.02	89.52	66.44
Facilities (FA&O)	104.25	209.89	152.07	77.28	104.53	141.08	115.00
Operation & Maintenance	4009.09	3555.63	3393.52	3293.82	3030.36	3069.98	2678.46
Minerals	111.20	115.37	110.37	110.09	115.65	114.26	112.59
Non-Forest Service	90.35	159.85	175.70	179.03	96.05	95.49	111.85

ALTERNATIVE H - CURRENT MANAGEMENT

This alternative was designed to display the costs/benefits that would occur if current management were projected through the planning horizon. The budget was held to the 10 year average for the first decade only.

Recreation

Most developed recreation sites will be operated at the reduced service level with emphasis on safety and sanitation. Developed recreation facilities will not receive needed maintenance which will eventually result in reduced capacity. As sites are closed, season of use will have to be shortened.

Dispersed recreation will be managed at a reduced service level. A small amount of trail will be reconstructed early during the planning horizon. Some trails will become impassable and signing will be deficient. Resource damage, user conflicts, and public safety problems will become more evident as the Forest Travel Plan is not monitored and not enforced. Cleanup of dispersed areas will occur only as part of other jobs.

This alternative provides opportunities for dispersed recreation that will exceed the expected demand throughout the planning horizon. This alternative will not meet the demand for developed recreation by the public past the year 1990. Recreation special uses will receive minimal attention.

Knowledge of and ability to manage cultural resources will remain at a low level. The cultural resource program would address project related work only based on issues, values, and risks. No Forestwide inventory would be conducted outside of project level work. Only one property would be nominated to the National Register every 5 years until potential is reached. Enhancement of properties would be done only after meeting project mitigation and protection needs.

Additional lands will be acquired if an opportunity arises to optimize recreation.

Wilderness

This alternative recommends the following roadless areas be designated as wilderness:

AREA	ACRES
Mount Moriah	60,700
Wheeler Peak	51,700
Quinn	99,750
Ruby Mountains	55,600
Grant Range	53,383
Jarbidge	26,400
Highland Ridge	33,184
	380,717

These areas will be managed and operated at the reduced service level. All other roadless areas will be managed for multiple uses other than wilderness.

Wildlife

Adverse effects on Federally listed threatened and endangered species habitat will not be permitted. In addition, cooperation with Nevada Department of Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reintroduce the peregrine falcon will continue.

The quality of aquatic habitats will be maintained. Big game winter range will be maintained at current production levels.

Populations of hunted MIS will be maintained at current levels. All other MIS will be maintained at levels that exceed requirements for minimum viable populations. This alternative will provide an estimated 150,361 WFUDs by the end of the planning horizon. The habitat capability will decrease slightly for deer, be maintained for goshawk, and increase slightly for sage grouse and trout.

Additional lands will be acquired if an opportunity arises to optimize wildlife habitat values.

Range

This alternative will produce 303,453 AUMs by the end of the planning horizon. The permitted AUMs will decline from the current situation during the first 5 years. AUMs will then increase to 303,453 AUMs at the end of the planning period.

Populations of sensitive plant species will be maintained. Wild horse use will reach 3,816 AUMs at the culmination of the planning horizon. The noxious weed control program will remain at the current level. Riparian areas will be less impacted because of improvement provided in allotment management plans. Common use of forage by livestock and big game on winter range will continue. Areas now closed to grazing will remain closed. Predator control will be allowed on grazing allotments where needed.

Woodland Products

Harvest of fuelwood will increase from 4,400 cords in 1986 to 4,600 cords in 2030. The supply of fuelwood will meet the demand throughout the planning horizon. Christmas tree harvest will also increase from 2,700 in 1986 to 3,600 in 2030.

Soil and Water

Water quality, soil productivity, and soil quality will improve at a moderate level. Watershed improvement will occur at a moderate rate, yet current needs for watershed improvement will not be satisfied by the end of the planning period. Reductions in soil erosion will be high, with watershed protection proceeding at a moderate level through implementation of soil and water conservation measures. Soil and water resource inventory will continue, as will present coordination with city, county, and state agencies.

READEX FICHE

Additional lands will be acquired if an opportunity arises to optimize soil and water values.

Minerals

The number of leases, permits and operating plans is expected to increase slightly through the life of the Plan. Withdrawals and legislative requirements will constrain mineral development on 489,822 acres.

The Forest will expedite the processing of oil and gas lease applications and locatable mineral proposals.

The funding will allow for evaluation of 234 leases and operating plans by the end of the planning horizon.

Fire Protection

An appropriate response will be made on all wildfires. Firefighting resources will continue to be pooled with those of other agencies to achieve the most efficient control program at the least cost. Use of prescribed fire will be limited to slash disposal and range and wildlife habitat improvement.

Lands

National Forest System ownership will increase. Lands will be acquired and disposed of as shown in the land adjustment guidelines.

Three rights-of-way will be acquired for resource programs.

Offers for land exchange will be responded to within 12 months, and one land exchange will be completed every other year.

Dam inspections will be accomplished and permittees will be notified of dam deficiencies.

Existing electronic sites will be maintained.

Utilities will be allowed in corridors evaluated as suitable.

Special Areas

Five areas will be nominated as Research Natural Areas. The natural condition of these areas will be protected.

Facilities

This alternative provides for adequate maintenance, repair and replacement of all essential buildings and associated water and sewer systems throughout the planning period. All essential facilities will be brought into compliance with and maintained to appropriate health and safety standards. Warehousing facilities in Elko will be replaced between 1991 and 1995. Buildings and facilities not needed for resource activities will be removed or disposed of.

Transportation

A program will be developed to provide a safe and economical road system to meet resource needs and outputs.

Two hundred and twenty-five miles of arterial and collector roads will be reconstructed during the planning period. Nine miles of local road construction and reconstruction will also occur during the planning period. Some additional road construction and reconstruction will be done by commercial users.

Bridge replacements will be accomplished through the Regional Bridge Replacement Program.

Road maintenance efforts will be concentrated on the arterial and collector system and those local roads critical to resource activities. Many local roads will receive little, if any, maintenance. Some local roads will deteriorate and may create environmental degradation. A few of these local roads may eventually become impassable. Maintenance levels for the roads will be determined by the road management program.

Traffic may be restricted on roads that have not been constructed to an all-weather standard.

Visuals

The Visual quality objectives for this alternative will be:

CATEGORY	ALTERNATIVE H (M ACRES)	M ACRES CHANGE FROM PRESENT INVENTORY
Preservation	517	0
Retention	84	0
Partial Retention	426	0
Modification	822	0
Maximum Modification	680	0

Law Enforcement

Increasing public use of the Forest will increase law enforcement problems. Cooperative law enforcement agreements with local law enforcement agencies will be continued.

TABLE II-10-A
RESOURCE OUTPUTS & BENEFITS FOR ALTERNATIVE II
(CURRENT MANAGEMENT)
(Undiscounted 1982 Dollars)

OUTPUTS	1986	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
RECREATION (RVDs)							
Developed	192800	195060	194000	191800	180620	186900	189700
Dispersed	388751	410143	419399	427124	440867	452771	466250
ROS-Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized	33889	35583	36295	37021	38132	39276	40454
ROS-Semi-Primitive Motorized	129398	135335	143024	149315	163335	173680	183947
Roaded Natural	320567	323773	320535	317330	310983	307873	310952
Rural	6904	6973	6903	6834	6697	6639	6696
Primitive	90793	103539	106642	108424	110340	112212	113901
WILDERNESS							
Acres	483411	483411	483411	483411	483411	483411	483411
Recreation Use (RVDs)	90793	103539	106642	108404	110340	112212	113901
RANGE							
Permitted Livestock Use (AUMs)	301583	297353	293286	294230	296896	301590	303453
Wild Horse & Burro Use (AUMs)	1471	1565	2042	2478	3439	3621	3816
WOODLAND PRODUCTS							
Fuelwood (Cords)	4368	4353	4489	4500	4522	4538	4562
X-Mas Trees (Trees)	2674	4153	3977	2781	3422	3585	3577
Pinenuts (Pounds)	26195	12050	9739	10674	10555	10555	10623
WATER & SOIL							
Water meeting Forest goals (M Acres Ft)	936000	963000	977000	991000	1031000	1050000	1099000
MINERALS							
Acres Leased (Acres)	318581	349342	351269	354010	356751	356751	356751
WILDLIFE (WFUDS)							
Total Use	149461	149665	149702	149846	150088	150144	150361
HCI for MIS							
Deer	100	100	101	101	101	100	99
Sage Grouse	100	100	100	100	100	101	101
Goshawk	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Trout	100	100	100	100	101	101	101
BENEFITS (M Dollars)							
Recreation	1562.36	1608.23	1630.47	1645.76	1683.29	1720.82	1781.98
Wilderness	683.88	825.66	859.02	875.70	895.16	911.84	928.52
Wildlife & Fish	4717.66	4724.61	4727.39	4731.56	4739.50	4881.68	4749.63
Range	4321.51	4261.74	4203.36	4217.26	4254.79	4321.51	4349.31
Woodland Products	37.53	36.14	32.53	30.30	34.06	34.06	47.91
Minerals	8178.76	8569.35	8962.72	7574.11	5345.94	3951.77	3951.77

TABLE II-10-B
RESOURCE ACTIVITIES & COSTS FOR ALTERNATIVE II
(CURRENT MANAGEMENT)
(Undiscounted 1982 Dollars)

ACTIVITIES	1986	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
WILDLIFE & FISH							
Structural Habitat Impvt. (Structures)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Nonstructural Habitat Impvt. (Acres)	118	118	88	92	97	94	108
WOODLANDS							
Timber Stand Impvt. (Acres)	24	24	53	48	45	48	49
WATER & SOIL							
Improvement (Acres)	11	11	9	9	8	8	8
MINERALS							
Leases and Permits (Cases)	226	226	241	235	235	235	234
HUMAN & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT							
Senior Citizens (Enrollees)	8	8	41	41	83	83	124
Volunteers (Enrollees)	5	5	33	33	60	60	93
FACILITIES							
Trail Const. and Reconstruction (Miles)	1.2	1.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Arterial and Collector Road Reconstruction (Miles)	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
COSTS (M Dollars)							
Total Budget	3426.35	3518.09	3642.08	3544.50	3404.80	3406.06	3237.87
Protection	189.33	189.33	191.82	192.27	192.84	193.24	194.42
General Administration	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59
Total Road Investments	2.78	2.78	166.80	154.85	154.29	154.29	154.10
Range Investments	189.04	172.36	200.99	225.46	195.30	194.88	136.31
Other Investments	41.70	20.85	13.07	7.51	30.44	7.09	14.27
Facilities (FA&O)	104.25	157.07	172.92	77.28	104.53	141.08	115.00
Operation & Maintenance	2006.87	2083.32	2002.71	1994.19	1835.58	1822.82	1731.30
Minerals	84.79	84.79	86.18	85.35	84.23	85.07	84.88
Non-Forest Service	72.28	126.49	133.44	135.11	43.92	42.40	65.42

ALTERNATIVE I - MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

This alternative emphasizes production of timber, forage for livestock, minerals, developed recreation, and special uses that have potential to produce income to the Government. Outputs from these resources will take precedence over outputs from non-market resources such as wilderness, wildlife, and dispersed recreation.

Recreation

All developed sites will be managed at the full service level, and the number of facilities will increase. The vegetation and soil resource on most developed sites will improve. Soil loss, sedimentation of streams and visual degradation will be reduced. Fee sites will be reconstructed and new facilities will be constructed. Dispersed recreation services will be reduced. The condition of dispersed recreation facilities will decline until some closures may be necessary. No new trailheads will be built and no trails will be constructed or reconstructed. Trail conditions will decline causing some soil loss and stream sedimentation. The quality of Forest recreation experiences will shift toward developed recreation.

Existing travel plans will continue to be implemented.

Knowledge of and ability to manage cultural resources will improve. The cultural resource program would increase from the project level to include Forestwide inventory and evaluation. One property would be nominated to the National Register every 2 years until potential is reached. Enhancement of properties would increase beyond project mitigation and protection.

Facilities will meet the demand for developed recreation. Demand for dispersed recreation will be met during the entire planning period.

Recreation special uses will be administered to meet environmental and public service standards.

Additional lands will be acquired if an opportunity arises to optimize recreation.

Wilderness

The Jarbidge Wilderness Area (64,667 Acres) will be maintained as wilderness. The area will be managed at a reduced service level. All of the roadless areas will be managed for multiple use other than wilderness.

Wildlife

Existing habitat of Federally listed threatened and endangered species will be enhanced. Cooperation with Nevada Department of Wildlife will continue. Habitat for sensitive fish species will be enhanced and/or maintained.

Aquatic habitat in lakes and riparian habitat will be maintained. Big game winter range productivity will decrease somewhat because the habitat improvement program is limited.

Hunted MIS will decrease slightly throughout the planning horizon because the habitat improvement program is limited and habitat security will decrease slightly. Fish production will increase but at a rate slightly decreased from that of the current program. All other MIS habitat will be maintained at levels that exceed minimum requirements for a viable population. This alternative provides for an estimated 149,336 WFUDs by the end of the planning period. The habitat capability will decrease slightly for deer and be maintained for sage grouse, goshawk, and trout through the planning period.

Range

Permitted AUMs will increase to 311,838 by the year 2030 by stocking vacant allotments, increasing livestock numbers on some allotments, and allowing increased recreational horse use.

Sensitive plant species will be maintained. Wild horse use will reach 4030 AUMs by the end of the planning horizon. Noxious weed control in cooperation with counties will increase.

Riparian areas will be impacted less by livestock. Means for minimizing impacts will be included in allotment management plans. Livestock and big game common use of forage will continue on winter ranges, but there will be potential for resource damage from the increased uses. Areas of suitable range presently closed for protection of watersheds and for recreational uses will remain closed. Predator control will be allowed on grazing allotments where needed.

Woodland Products

The harvest of fuelwood will vary from 5,160 cords in 1986 to 5,650 cords in the year 2030. Christmas tree harvest will reach 4,100 trees within the planning period.

Soil and Water

Water quality, soil productivity, and soil quality will improve at a moderate level. Watershed improvement will occur at a moderate rate, but current needs for watershed improvement will not be satisfied by the end of the planning period. Reductions in soil erosion will be moderate, with watershed protection proceeding at a moderately high level through implementation of soil and water conservation measures. Soil and water resource inventory will continue, as will present coordination with city, county, and state agencies.

Minerals

Withdrawals and legislative requirements will restrict mineral development on 71,061 acres. Future funding and organization will allow proper evaluation of as many as 207 cases annually by the end of the planning horizon.

Oil and gas leasing is expected to increase through the year 2000 and then decline. Locatable mineral activity and interest in geothermal exploration will increase. Operating plans will require rehabilitation of sites disturbed by mineral activity.

Fire Protection

An appropriate suppression response will be made on all wildfires. Firefighting resources will continue to be pooled with those of other agencies to achieve the most efficient control program at the least cost. The use of prescribed fires will increase, particularly in the range and wildlife resource areas.

Lands

National Forest System ownership will increase. Lands will be acquired that have natural resource values. Four rights-of-way will be acquired for resource programs.

Offers for land exchanges will be responded to within 3 months, and two land exchanges a year will be completed.

Standards for dam inspection will be met. Permittees will be notified of deficiencies, and emergency preparedness and operating plans will be prepared for each dam.

Special Areas

Three areas will be proposed for designation as Research Natural Areas on the Forest.

Facilities

This alternative provides for adequate maintenance, repair, and replacement of all essential buildings and associated water and sewer systems throughout the planning period. All essential facilities shall be brought into compliance with and maintained to appropriate health and safety standards. Warehousing facilities in Elko will be replaced between 1991 and 1995. Building and facilities not needed for resource activities will be removed or disposed of.

Transportation

A program will be developed to provide a safe and economical road system to meet market resource needs and outputs.

Two hundred and twenty-five miles of arterial and collector roads will be reconstructed during the planning period. Nine miles of local road construction and reconstruction will also occur during the planning period. Some additional road construction and reconstruction will be done by commercial users.

Bridge replacements will be accomplished through the Regional Bridge Replacement Program.

Road maintenance efforts will be concentrated on the arterial and collector system and those local roads critical to resource management activities. Many local roads will deteriorate and may create environmental degradation. A few of these local roads may eventually become impassable. The maintenance levels for the roads will be determined by the road management program.

Traffic may be restricted on roads that have not been constructed to an all-weather standard.

Visuals

The VQOs for this alternative will be:

CATEGORY	ALTERNATIVE I (M ACRES)	M ACRES CHANGE FROM PRESENT INVENTORY
Preservation	97	- 419
Retention	197	113
Partial Retention	732	306
Modification	822	0
Maximum Modification	680	0

Law Enforcement

Increasing public use of the Forest will produce more law enforcement problems. The Forest will continue cooperative law enforcement agreements with local law enforcement agencies.

TABLE II-11-A
RESOURCE OUTPUTS & BENEFITS FOR ALTERNATIVE I
(MARKET OPPORTUNITY)
(Undiscounted 1982 Dollars)

OUTPUTS	1986	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
RECREATION (RVDs)							
Developed	201800	204560	201200	202000	298820	197100	199900
Dispersed	379630	389741	397743	406080	422410	435624	448935
ROS-Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized	33889	34906	35604	36316	37769	38902	40069
ROS-Semi-Primitive Motorized	196439	204309	226239	240324	258008	270846	282339
Roaded Natural	320567	323773	317297	310951	304732	301865	304884
Rural	6904	6973	6833	6696	6562	6496	6561
Primitive	23631	24340	12970	13793	14159	14615	14982
WILDERNESS							
Acres	64667	64667	64667	64667	64667	64667	64667
Recreation Use (RVDs)	11370	12370	12970	13793	14159	14615	14982
RANGE							
Permitted Livestock Use (AUMs)	301617	304902	300415	302490	306475	311744	311838
Wild Horse & Burro Use (AUMs)	1471	1868	2350	2861	2831	3954	4030
WOODLAND PRODUCTS							
Fuelwood (Cords)	5162	5179	5397	5423	5458	5493	5647
X-Mas Trees (Trees)	3147	4&					4137
Pinenuts (Pounds)	32579	14497	10238	10197	10718	10718	10718
WATER & SOIL							
Water meeting Forest goals (M Acres Ft)	936000	950000	963000	977000	1054000	1031000	1072000
MINERALS							
Acres Leased (Acres)	361826	395827	406828	411829	416829	416829	416829
WILDLIFE (WFUDS)							
Total Use	149463	149619	149379	149374	149354	149705	149336
HCI for MIS							
Deer	100	100	100	100	100	99	99
Sage Grouse	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Goshawk	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Trout	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
BENEFITS (M Dollars)							
Recreation	1784.76	1834.80	1850.09	1886.23	1939.05	1987.70	2054.42
Wilderness	93.13	104.25	111.20	119.54	125.20	129.27	88.96
Wildlife & Fish	4730.17	4734.34	4727.39	4728.78	4728.78	4739.90	4728.78
Range	4322.90	4370.16	4304.83	4335.41	4392.40	4467.46	4468.85
Woodland Products	34.75	37.53	38.09	36.14	38.78	38.78	38.83
Minerals	8238.53	8634.68	9040.56	7654.73	6263.34	4035.70	4035.17

TABLE II-11-B
RESOURCE ACTIVITIES & COSTS FOR ALTERNATIVE I
(MARKET OPPORTUNITY)
(Undiscounted 1982 Dollars)

ACTIVITIES	1986	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
WILDLIFE & FISH							
Structural Habitat Impvt. (Structures)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Nonstructural Habitat Impvt. (Acres)	185	185	82	82	72	72	76
WOODLANDS							
Timber Stand Impvt. (Acres)	53	53	67	64	59	63	65
WATER & SOIL							
Improvement (Acres)	8	8	7	7	7	7	7
MINERALS							
Leases and Permits (Cases)	218	218	213	213	207	207	207
HUMAN & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT							
Senior Citizens (Enrollees)	8	8	41	41	83	83	124
Volunteers (Enrollees)	5	5	30	30	58	58	88
FACILITIES							
Trail Const. and Reconstruction (Miles)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Arterial and Collector Road Reconstruction (Miles)	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
COSTS (M Dollars)							
Total Budget	3322.10	3384.65	3520.87	3463.05	3267.75	3288.60	3134.36
Protection	192.69	192.69	195.51	196.08	196.66	197.07	198.28
General Administration	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59
Total Road Investments	2.78	2.78	166.80	154.85	154.29	154.29	154.10
Range Investments	211.28	218.23	224.07	276.05	183.76	187.51	126.03
Other Investments	44.48	11.12	21.23	12.79	29.47	23.35	19.00
Facilities (FA&O)	104.25	157.07	172.92	77.28	104.53	141.08	115.00
Operation & Maintenance	1882.58	1918.72	1867.80	1864.46	1718.47	1704.46	1641.06
Minerals	76.45	76.45	73.95	73.95	72.98	73.25	73.30
Non-Forest Service	72.28	130.66	129.27	133.44	56.99	47.82	70.89

ALTERNATIVE J - NON-MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

This alternative emphasizes resources that have non-market opportunities: wilderness, wildlife, fish, water, and dispersed recreation (backpacking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing), and visual quality. It gives these non-market outputs priority over market values.

Recreation

All developed sites will be managed at the reduced service level causing facilities to deteriorate. The condition of developed recreation facilities will decline until some closures will be necessary. The vegetation and soil resource on most developed sites will deteriorate. Soil loss, sedimentation of streams and visual degradation will increase.

Dispersed recreation will be managed at the full service level and use will increase. Trailheads and trails will be constructed and/or reconstructed by 1990. Most trail maintenance will be at level 3, but some will be at level 4. Trail condition will improve, reducing erosion and stream sedimentation.

Recreation special uses will be administered to meet minimum environmental and public service standards.

Knowledge of and ability to manage cultural resources will improve. The cultural resource program would increase from the project level to include Forestwide inventory and evaluation. One property would be nominated to the National Register every two years until potential is reached. Enhancement of properties would increase beyond project mitigation and protection.

Additional lands will be acquired if an opportunity arises to optimize recreation.

Wilderness

All of the roadless areas, totaling 1,742,728 acres, will be recommended for wilderness management. The existing Wilderness Area, Jarbidge will remain as such. The recommended wilderness areas and Jarbidge will be managed at a full service level.

Wildlife

Habitat of current Federally listed threatened and endangered species will be improved, and no conflicts from other uses will be allowed. Habitat for the peregrine falcon will be expanded to maximum potential through a cooperative program with Nevada Department of Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Habitat for sensitive species, especially for aquatic species, will be improved.

Improvement of nongame habitat and nonconsumptive wildlife programs will be emphasized. The aquatic habitat capability of streams will be increased. Unsuitable lake habitats will be improved. Riparian habitat will be enhanced through direct improvement and improved coordination with grazing management. Big game winter range productivity will increase also.

All populations of hunted and fished MIS will increase under this alternative. All habitats will be maintained at levels that exceed minimum requirements for viable populations. This alternative provides an estimated 153,450 WFUDs by the end of the planning horizon. The habitat capability for all MIS will be increased through the planning period.

Additional lands will be acquired if an opportunity arises to optimize wildlife habitat values.

Range

Permitted AUMs will decrease from 302,000 to 298,700 as emphasis on wildlife, riparian area management and recreational use increases. The decrease in AUMs could be offset by (1) reconstruction of range improvements by permittees, (2) acceptance of a lower condition standard for the range resource, or (3) changes in allotment management systems.

Sensitive plant species will be protected. The wild horse use would reach 4,591 AUMs by the year 2030. The program of noxious weed control will be strengthened in cooperation with counties.

Development of allotment management plans will reduce the impact of livestock on riparian areas. Areas now closed to grazing will remain closed. Predator control will be allowed on grazing allotments where needed.

Woodland Products

The harvest of fuelwood and Christmas trees will increase slightly during the planning period. Most of the harvesting will be connected to wildlife habitat improvement projects.

Soil and Water

Water quality, soil productivity, and soil quality will improve at a moderate level. Watershed improvement will occur at a moderate rate, but current needs for watershed improvement will not be satisfied by the end of the planning period. Reductions in soil erosion will be low, but watershed protection will proceed at a moderate level through implementation of soil and water conservation measures. Soil and water resource inventory will continue, as will present coordination with city, county, and state agencies.

Minerals

Withdrawals and legislative requirements will restrict minerals development on 1,813,806 acres. Oil and gas lease development and proposals for mining claim operations will receive careful evaluation on a case-by-case basis through the environmental analysis process. Prompt processing of proposals for exploration and development will be emphasized. Energy minerals will receive highest priority. Organization and funding under this alternative will enable proper evaluation of 227 applications and proposals by the end of the planning period.

Fire Protection

Fire protection will be concentrated on high production non-market output areas. Prescribed burning will be used to create diversified conditions and improve wildlife habitat.

Lands

National Forest System land ownership will increase to benefit watershed, dispersed recreation, and wildlife habitat.

Offers for land exchange will be responded to within 3 months, and 2 land exchanges per year will be completed.

Four road rights-of-way will be acquired for resource programs each year.

Standards for dam inspection will be met. Permittees will be notified of deficiencies, but few emergency preparedness and operating plans for dams will be developed.

No new electronic sites will be designated.

Utilities will be allowed in corridors evaluated as suitable.

Special Areas

Five Research Natural Areas will be proposed for designation on the Forest.

Facilities

This alternative provides for adequate maintenance, repair and replacement of all essential buildings and associated water and sewer systems throughout the planning period. All essential facilities will be brought into compliance with and maintained to appropriate health and safety standards. Warehousing facilities in Elko will be replaced between 1991 and 1995. Buildings and facilities not needed for resource activities will be removed or disposed.

Transportation

A program will be developed to provide a safe and economical road system to meet non-market resource needs and outputs.

Two hundred and twenty-five miles of arterial and collector roads will be reconstructed during the planning period. One mile of local road construction or reconstruction will also occur during the planning period. Some additional road construction or reconstruction will be done by commercial users.

Bridge replacements will be accomplished through the Regional Bridge Replacement Program.

Road maintenance efforts will be concentrated on the arterial and collector system and those local roads critical to resource activities. Many local roads will receive little, if any, maintenance. Some of these local roads will deteriorate and may create environmental degradation. A few local roads may eventually become impassable. Maintenance levels for roads will be determined by the road management program.

Traffic may be restricted on roads that have not been built to an all-weather standard.

Visuals

The VQOs for this alternative will be:

CATEGORY	ALTERNATIVE J (M ACRES)	M ACRES CHANGE FROM PRESENT INVENTORY
Preservation	1839	1323
Retention	20	- 64
Partial Retention	69	- 357
Modification	300	- 522
Maximum Modification	300	- 380

Law Enforcement

Increasing public use of the Forest will increase law enforcement problems. Cooperative law enforcement agreements with local law enforcement agencies will be maintained.

Watersheds will be protected from ORV damage.

TABLE II-12-A
RESOURCE OUTPUTS & BENEFITS FOR ALTERNATIVE J
(NON-MARKET OPPORTUNITY)
(Undiscounted 1982 Dollars)

OUTPUTS	1986	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
RECREATION (RVDs)							
Developed	191005	173825	167800	161882	155518	151751	149974
Dispersed	412610	445894	458919	468585	489474	503889	519933
ROS-Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized	33889	36261	37349	38096	39602	40809	42033
ROS-Semi-Primitive Motorized	10200	19185	24931	30909	37748	41989	46329
Roaded Natural	285665	259955	249557	239575	229992	225392	223136
Rural	6904	6283	6032	5791	5559	5448	5393
Primitive	266957	298035	308350	316096	332073	342002	353014
WILDERNESS							
Acres	1807395	1807395	1807395	1807395	1807395	1807395	1807395
Recreation Use (RVDs)	266957	298035	308850	316096	332073	342002	353014
RANGE							
Permitted Livestock Use (AUMs)	302085	301621	293077	294013	295915	297535	298711
Wild Horse & Burro Use (AUMs)	1471	1930	2452	3001	4097	4334	4591
WOODLAND PRODUCTS							
Fuelwood (Cords)	2238	2250	2292	2299	2309	2321	2369
X-Mas Trees (Trees)	1414	1724	1716	1508	1682	1748	1750
Pinenuts (Pounds)	25645	11500	7974	8054	8416	8416	8424
WATER & SOIL							
Water meeting Forest goals (M Acres Ft)	936000	977000	991000	1037000	1072000	1126000	1194000
MINERALS							
Acres Leased (Acres)	84327	90519	92649	93377	93905	93905	93305
WILDLIFE (WFUDS)							
Total Use	149410	149768	150133	151000	151998	152901	153450
HCI for MIS							
Deer	100	100	101	102	105	105	105
Sage Grouse	100	100	100	100	100	101	101
Goshawk	100	100	100	100	100	101	101
Trout	100	100	100	100	101	102	102
BENEFITS (M Dollars)							
Recreation	1143.97	1081.42	1063.35	1049.45	1042.50	1045.28	1060.57
Wilderness	20560.25	2392.19	2510.34	2584.01	2754.98	2859.23	2974.60
Wildlife & Fish	4675.96	4687.08	4699.59	4728.78	4757.97	4785.77	4805.23
Range	4328.46	4322.90	4200.58	4213.09	4240.89	4264.52	4281.20
Woodland Products	20.85	18.07	17.24	16.68	17.24	17.24	17.24
Minerals	7852.11	8210.73	8604.10	7211.32	5149.95	3586.20	3586.20

TABLE II-12-B
ACTIVITIES & COSTS FOR ALTERNATIVE J
(NON-MARKET OPPORTUNITY)
(Undiscounted 1982 Dollars)

ACTIVITIES	1986	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
WILDLIFE & FISH							
Structural Habitat Impvt. (Structures)	3	3	1	3	1	3	1
Nonstructural Habitat Impvt. (Acres)	241	241	113	112	138	108	134
WOODLANDS							
Timber Stand Impvt. (Acres)	11	11	16	16	16	17	19
WATER & SOIL							
Improvement (Acres)	19	19	15	15	13	13	13
MINERALS							
Leases and Permits (Cases)	222	222	234	233	229	227	227
HUMAN & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT							
Senior Citizens (Enrollees)	8	8	41	41	83	83	124
Volunteers (Enrollees)	5	5	35	35	68	68	108
FACILITIES							
Trail Const. and Reconstruction (Miles)	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Arterial and Collector Road Reconstruction (Miles)	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
COSTS (M Dollars)							
Total Budget	3470.83	3557.01	3613.72	3542.00	3291.38	3320.99	3117.40
Protection	182.03	182.03	184.69	185.23	185.77	186.16	187.30
General Administration	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59
Total Road Investments	0.00	0.00	164.30	151.79	151.79	151.79	151.79
Range Investments	198.77	211.28	213.50	260.76	177.92	186.12	108.23
Other Investments	13.90	12.51	8.06	8.62	8.76	8.20	8.52
Facilities (FA&O)	104.25	157.07	172.92	77.28	104.53	141.08	115.00
Operation & Maintenance	2080.89	2104.52	1978.98	1967.61	1772.87	1757.34	1656.50
Minerals	83.40	82.01	83.68	83.12	82.15	82.71	82.47
Non-Forest Service	65.33	108.42	113.98	122.32	84.23	73.67	55.41

ALTERNATIVE K - PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

This alternative was designed to resolve major issues and management concerns while providing a mix of both market and nonmarket uses and outputs.

Recreation

Developed recreation sites will be operated to increase the level of resource outputs.

Dispersed recreation will be managed at an increased level. Trail will be reconstructed throughout the planning horizon. These areas will be managed and operated at the full service level. Resource damage, user conflicts, and public safety problems will decrease as the Forest Travel Plan is monitored and enforced. Cleanup of dispersed areas will occur only as part of other jobs.

Demand for developed recreation will be met until the year 2000. Demands for dispersed recreation will also be met.

Knowledge of and ability to manage cultural resources will improve. The cultural resource program would increase from the project level to include forestwide inventory and evaluation. One property would be nominated to the National Register every 2 years until potential is reached. Enhancement of properties would increase beyond project mitigation and protection.

Additional lands will be acquired if an opportunity arises to optimize recreation.

Wilderness

This alternative recommends the following roadless areas be designated wilderness areas. This recommendation will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States. Final decisions on wilderness designation have been reserved by the Congress to itself.

AREA	ACRES
Mount Moriah	60,700
Wheeler Peak	51,700
Ruby Mountains	55,600
Grant Range	43,100
Jarbidge Additions	26,400
East Humboldt	18,500
Soldier Lake	12,300
	268,300

All other roadless areas will be managed for uses other than wilderness.

Wildlife

Current habitat used by Federally listed threatened and endangered species will be improved, and conflicts from other uses will be permitted. In addition, cooperation with Nevada Department of Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reintroduce the peregrine falcon will continue.

The quality of aquatic habitats will be improved slightly. Big game winter range will be improved.

Habitat of hunted MIS will be improved. Habitat of all other MIS will be maintained at levels that exceed requirements for minimum viable populations. This alternative will provide an estimated 152,721 WFUDs by the end of the planning horizon. The habitat capability for goshawk will also be improved.

Additional lands will be acquired if an opportunity arises to optimize wildlife habitat values.

Range

This alternative will produce 316,621 AUMs by the end of the planning horizon. This increase in AUMs will be attributed to improved range conditions brought about by enhanced management.

Populations of sensitive plant species will be maintained. Wild horse use will reach 1,600 AUMs at the culmination of the planning horizon. The noxious weed control program will remain at the current level. Riparian areas will be less impacted because of improved direction provided in allotment management plans. Predator control will be allowed on grazing allotments where needed. It is anticipated that areas closed to grazing for specific reasons such as municiple watersheds and campgrounds will remain closed.

Woodland Products

Harvest of fuelwood will increase from 5,100 cords in 1986 to 5,400 cords in 2035. The supply of fuelwood will meet the demand throughout the planning horizon. Christmas tree harvest will also increase from 2,800 in 1986 to 3,550 in 2035. Opportunities to manage fuelwood to improve range and wildlife habitat will continue.

Soil and Water

Water quality will improve at a moderate level, while soil productivity and quality will improve at a high level. Watershed improvement will occur at a moderate rate, yet current needs for watershed improvement will not be satisfied by the end of the planning period. Reductions in soil erosion will increase, with watershed protection proceeding at a moderate level through implementation of soil and water conservation measures. Soil and water resource inventory will continue, as will present coordination with city, county, and state agencies.

Additional lands will be acquired if an opportunity arises to optimize soil and water values.

Minerals

The number of lease permits and operating plans is expected to increase slightly throughout the life of the plan. Withdrawals and legislative requirements will constrain mineral development on 339,278 acres.

The Forest will expedite the processing of oil and gas lease applications and locatable mineral proposals.

Funding will allow proper evaluation of 233 leases and operating plans by the end of the planning horizon.

Fire Protection

An appropriate suppression response will be made on all wildfires. Firefighting resources will continue to be pooled with those of other agencies to achieve the most efficient control program at the least cost. Use of prescribed fire will be limited to range and wildlife habitat improvement.

Lands

National Forest System ownership will increase through land acquisitions and/or exchanges. Lands will be acquired and disposed of as shown in the current land adjustment guidelines.

Three rights-of-way will be acquired for resource programs.

Offers for land exchange will be responded to within 3 months, and one land exchange per year will be completed.

Dam inspections will be accomplished and permittees will be notified of deficiencies.

Existing electronic sites will be maintained.

Utilities will be allowed in corridors evaluated as suitable.

Special Areas

Five areas will be nominated as Research Natural Areas. The natural condition of these areas will be protected.

Facilities

This alternative will provide for adequate maintenance, repair and replacement of all essential buildings and associated water and sewer systems throughout the planning period. All essential facilities will be brought into compliance with and maintained to appropriate health and safety standards. Warehousing facilities in Elko will be replaced between 1991 and 1995. Buildings and facilities not needed for resource activities will be removed or otherwise disposed of.

Transportation

A program will be developed to provide a safe and economical road system to meet resource needs and outputs.

Two hundred and twenty-five miles of arterial and collector roads will be reconstructed during the planning period. Nine miles of local road construction or reconstruction will also occur during the planning period. Some additional road construction and reconstruction will be done by commercial users.

Bridge replacements will be accomplished as specified in the Regional Bridge Replacement Program.

Road maintenance efforts will be concentrated on the arterial and collector system and those local roads critical to resource management activities. Many of the local roads will receive little maintenance, if any. Some of these local roads will deteriorate and possibly create environmental problems. A few of these local roads may eventually become impassable. Maintenance levels for the roads will be determined by the road management program.

Traffic may be restricted on roads that have not been constructed to an all-weather standard.

Visuals

The VQOs for this alternative will be:

CATEGORY	ALTERNATIVE K (M ACRES)	M ACRES CHANGE FROM PRESENT INVENTORY
Preservation	268	- 312
Retention	84	0
Partial Retention	674	248
Modification	822	0
Maximum Modification	680	0

Law Enforcement

Increased public use of the Forest will increase law enforcement problems. Cooperative law enforcement agreements with local law enforcement agencies will be continued.

TABLE II-13-A
RESOURCE OUTPUTS & BENEFITS FOR ALTERNATIVE K
(PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)
(Undiscounted 1982 Dollars)

OUTPUTS	1986	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
RECREATION (RVDs)							
Developed	209180	217440	221880	227680	231000	235280	243880
Dispersed	385651	412679	423744	431347	445533	457567	470687
ROS-Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized	34351	36728	37713	38390	39652	40724	41891
ROS-Semi-Primitive Motorized	177088	189832	194922	202733	218311	228788	240050
Roaded Natural	332290	345730	352789	362011	367290	374095	387769
Rural	7112	7393	7544	7741	7854	8000	8292
Primitive	36866	40030	41103	41841	43217	44385	45657
WILDERNESS							
Acres	333000	333000	333000	333000	333000	333000	333000
Recreation Use (RVDs)	45355	56076	58907	59321	59949	60645	61451
RANGE							
Permitted Livestock Use (AUMs)	301690	303706	300298	302463	307585	314211	316621
Wild Horse & Burro Use (AUMs)	1471	1500	1500	1550	1600	1600	1600
WOODLAND PRODUCTS							
Fuelwood (Cords)	5131	5123	5322	5339	5372	5395	5395
X-Mas Trees (Trees)	2850	5011	3589	2814	3363	3576	3552
Pinenuts (Pounds)	29753	15707	11171	11892	11932	11932	12099
WATER & SOIL							
Water meeting Forest goals (M Acres Ft)	936000	963000	977000	991000	1018000	1045000	1086000
MINERALS							
Acres Leased (Acres)	344869	374587	384305	388320	392336	392336	392336
WILDLIFE (WFUDS)							
Total Use	149402	149694	150206	150682	151272	152020	152721
HCI for MIS							
Deer	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sage Grouse	100	100	100	100	101	101	101
Goshawk	100	100	100	100	100	99	99
Trout	100	100	100	100	101	101	101
BENEFITS (M Dollars)							
Recreation	1780.59	1882.06	1933.49	1986.31	2055.81	2121.14	2205.93
Wilderness	252.98	372.52	401.71	405.88	410.05	417.00	423.95
Wildlife & Fish	4724.61	4735.73	4749.63	4766.31	4784.38	4806.62	4827.47
Range	4322.90	4352.09	4303.44	4334.02	4407.69	4503.60	4536.96
Woodland Products	44.48	40.31	37.53	35.86	37.39	38.78	40.03
Minerals	8214.90	8612.44	9008.59	7621.37	5394.59	4000.42	4000.42

TABLE II-13-B
RESOURCE ACTIVITIES & COSTS FOR ALTERNATIVE K
(PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)
(Undiscounted 1982 Dollars)

ACTIVITIES	1986	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
WILDLIFE & FISH							
Structural Habitat Impvt. (Structures)	89	114	0	0	0	0	0
Nonstructural Habitat Impvt. (Acres)	233	930	275	275	275	275	275
WOODLANDS							
Timber Stand Impvt. (Acres)	13	53	56	56	58	61	62
WATER & SOIL							
Improvement (Acres)	19	19	18	17	15	15	15
MINERALS							
Leases and Permits (Cases)	226	226	239	234	227	233	233
HUMAN & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT							
Senior Citizens (Enrollees)	8	8	11	11	11	11	11
Volunteers (Enrollees)	7	7	10	10	10	10	10
FACILITIES							
Trail Const. and Reconstruction (Miles)	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Arterial and Collector Road Reconstruction (Miles)	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
COSTS (M dollars)							
Total Budget	4329.73	4306.10	4354.75	4304.71	4044.78	4011.42	3748.71
Protection	188.47	188.47	191.21	191.21	192.58	192.86	106.29
General Administration	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59	807.59
Total Road Investments	9.73	9.73	172.36	161.80	159.85	161.94	159.85
Range Investments	237.69	239.08	247.70	303.85	206.97	208.92	158.18
Other Investments	197.34	241.82	165.93	162.03	184.83	162.59	153.97
Facilities (FA&O)	104.25	157.07	172.92	77.28	104.53	141.08	115.00
Operation & Maintenance	2594.31	2469.21	2404.47	2408.93	2196.97	2145.53	2058.31
Minerals	190.35	193.13	192.57	192.02	191.46	190.91	189.52
Non-Forest Service	72.28	120.93	135.94	133.44	42.53	46.56	73.48

I. COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

This section compares eight of the alternatives with the Current Management (Alt. H) ("No Action") Alternative. Table II-14 provides a comparison of the acreage assignment by management prescription between the alternatives. Table II-15 displays the wilderness acre proposals by alternatives. The numbers used for comparison, shown in Table II-16, represent the differences in outputs, activities, benefits and costs (for each alternative) from the FY 1986 current program.

The purpose of Forest planning is to identify and select for implementation the alternative that most nearly maximizes net public benefits. Net public benefits are defined as the "overall long-term value to the nation of all outputs and positive effects (benefits) less all associated inputs and negative effects (costs) whether they can be quantitatively valued or not, consistent with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield."

There is no mathematical formula available to define the desired alternative. Indeed, there are differences of opinion about whether particular effects of alternatives are positive or negative. Therefore, it is necessary to separately define all the major effects of each alternative as the basis for review, judgment, and eventual selection.

Chapter IV, "Environmental Consequences," describes in greater detail the expected effects of implementing each alternative. Consequences are briefly summarized in this section. Mitigating measures can be found on page IV-68 of this document.

Recreation

Campground and picnic area facilities and services will decrease under the Current Budget (Alt. D), Current Management (Alt. H), and PNV (Alt. C) until the budget can maintain the reduced number of facilities. Within a few years, recreation demand will exceed capacity. The 1985 RPA (Alt. F) will increase facility numbers and improve their quality over time. They will meet or exceed demand over the entire 50-year planning horizon. The Constrained Budget (Alt. E) and Non-Market (Alt. J) will cause a decline in services and numbers and quality of sites. This will result in an immediate loss of capacity to a level below demand. The Wilderness Commodity (Alt. A) will maintain present capacity of all facilities. The Preferred (Alt. K) will increase present capacity and concentrate management at fee and heavily used facilities during the summer heavy use period. These latter two alternatives will meet projected demand until the year 2000. By then the plan will have been revised and current information will be available to determine if additional developed site capacity is needed to meet demand.

The Current Budget (Alt. D), Non-Market (Alt. J), Current Management (Alt. (Alt. H), and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) will provide very little site rehabilitation resulting in the most site deterioration. Facilities will be reconstructed in the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and PNV (Alt. C). New recreation facilities will be constructed under the 1985 RPA (Alt. F), and Market (Alt. I). The Preferred (Alt. K) will bring existing facilities up to standard over a 10-year period.

TABLE II-14
ACREAGE ASSIGNMENT BY MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

	ALTERNATIVES								
PRESCRIPTION	A WILDERNESS COMMODITY	C PNV	D CURRENT BUDGET	E CONSTRAINED BUDGET	F 1985 RPA	H CURRENT MANAGEMENT	I MARKET	J NON-MARKET	K PREFERRED
1. Current Situation (No Action)	366319	925303	689819	390490		1683867	793911	319005	899910
2, Livestock (H)	263616	243616					252578	178015	251013
3. Mot Disp/Wood Prods/Dev Rec (H) Wildl/S&W/Mins (M)								88107	503300
4. S&W/Wildl/Non Mot Disp/Mins (H)					587393				
5. S&W/Wildl/NoMot Disp/ Mins (H) Mot Disp/Wood Prod/Dev Rec (M)		95196			238471				
6. All Low	446169	285364	1572499	1965163	274258		1251191	200074	
7. All High Except Livestock					76032				
8. All High Except Wildlife					1201091				
9. All Moderate	282816	329331			425318	230249		452318	540706
10. Wilderness	1169009	649119	265611	172276	150684	418744	0	1742728	333000
Total:	2527929	2527929	2527929	25527929	2527929	2527929	2527929	2527929	2527929

(H) = High Emphasis
(M) = Moderate Emphasis
(L) = Low Emphasis

Nonmot Disp = Nonmotorized Dispersed Recreation
Mins = Minerals
Mot disp = Motorized dispersed Recreation
Dev Rec = Developed Recreation
Wildl = Wildlife
S&W = Soil and Water

TABLE II-15
WILDERNESS ACRE PROPOSALS BY ALTERNATIVE

		ALTERNATIVES								
CODE	AREA NAME	A WILD/ COMMODITY	C PNV	D CURRENT BUDGET	E CONSTRAINED BUDGET	F 1985 RPA	H CURRENT MANAGEMENT	I MARKET	J NON MARKET	K PRE- FERRED
A	A	12400	0	0	0	0	0	0	12400	0
B	B	8800	0	0	0	0	0	0	8800	0
226	East Humboldt	28407	28407	0	0	0	0	0	28407	18500
227	Ruby Mountains North (Soldier Lake)	27730	0	0	0	0	0	0	31874	12300
228	Pearl Peak	11656	11656	0	0	0	0	0	12892	0
229	Santa Rosa	70674	0	0	0	0	0	0	72110	0
230/C	Quinn River	69100	0	0	0	0	0	0	69100	0
351	Eight Mile	5204	0	0	0	0	0	0	5280	0
352	Mount Moriah	81743	81743	81743	0	0	81743	0	96901	60700
353	Seigal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8849	0
354	North Schell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50703	0
355	South Schell	111029	111029	0	0	0	0	0	133706	0
356	Duck Creek Mountains	12703	0	0	0	0	0	0	12703	0
357	Cave Creek	7220	0	0	0	0	0	0	7220	0
358	Cooper	8350	0	0	0	0	0	0	10760	0
359	Wheeler Peak	60151	60151	60151	0	60151	60151	0	76514	51700
360	Quinn	99750	99750	0	0	0	99750	0	100661	0
361	Black Springs	10235	0	0	0	0	0	0	10235	0
362A	White Pine North	23626	0	0	0	0	0	0	23717	0
362B	White Pine South	11158	0	0	0	0	0	0	11238	0
364	Shellback	79330	0	0	0	0	0	0	79291	0
365A	Bald Mountain North	8403	0	0	0	0	0	0	8678	0
365B	Bald Mountain South	11776	0	0	0	0	0	0	11776	0
366A	Cottonwood North	8958	0	0	0	0	0	0	8858	0
366B	Cottonwood South	16056	0	0	0	0	0	0	17306	0
367	Ruby Mountains	67093	67093	67093	0	67093	67093	0	66331	55600
368	Red Mountain	28548	0	0	0	0	0	0	31095	0
369	Wilhoites	11068	0	0	0	0	0	0	11068	0
370	Ward Mountain	12976	0	0	0	0	0	0	12976	0
371	Grant Range	53383	53383	0	0	0	53383	0	101030	43100
372	Jarbidge	23440	23440	23440	0	23440	23440	0	94475	26400
373	Lime Creek	11513	0	0	0	0	0	0	11513	0
374	Elk Mountain	12575	0	0	0	0	0	0	12575	0
375	Flat Creek	12721	0	0	0	0	0	0	12721	0
376	Copper Mountain	34143	34143	0	0	0	0	0	34593	0
377	Rattlesnake	22312	0	0	0	0	0	0	22312	0
378	Robinson Canyon	7960	0	0	0	0	0	0	7960	0
379	Rocky Gulch	8440	0	0	0	0	0	0	8440	0
380	Bruneau River	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34539	0
381	Mahoganies	10920	0	0	0	0	0	0	10920	0
382	Merritt Mountain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40440	0
384	Log Creek	19101	0	0	0	0	0	0	19360	0
387	White Rock	22375	0	0	0	0	0	0	23000	0
388	Wildhorse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59800	0
389	Independence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54120	0
390	Haystack	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24280	0
391	Highland Ridge	33184	33184	33184	0	0	33184	0	67984	0
836	McCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6160	0
838	Lampson	9058	0	0	0	0	0	0	9058	0
839	Duckwater	45140	45140	0	0	0	0	0	55998	0
	TOTAL ACRES	1169009	649119	265611	0	150684	418744	0	1742728	268300
PERCENT OF ROADLESS AREA ON THE FOREST		67	37	15	0	9	24	0	100	15

Dispersed recreation trails and site facilities will be constructed and well-maintained early within the planning period in the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), and Non-Market (Alt. J). These facilities will receive site rehabilitation in the Preferred (Alt. K) as well as a slight increase in new trails. The other alternatives will provide very little rehabilitation or maintenance and trails will deteriorate over time.

As resource activities increase, the need for survey work and the risk of damage to unidentified cultural resources increase. The Current Budget (Alt. D), Constrained Budget (Alt. E) and the Current Management (Alt. H) do not increase the cultural resources. The other alternatives provide for an increased program that includes a Forest inventory to locate cultural resources. All alternatives direct that an archaeological review be made before any site-disturbing activities are initiated and when there is an agency decision which could have an effect on significant sites. In the In the Current Budget (Alt. D), Constrained Budget (Alt. E), and Current Management (Alt. H) project work would be based on issues, values, and risks.

If significant cultural resource sites are found, they will either be fully evaluated and released, or protected from commodity activity under all alternatives.

The indirect impacts associated with dispersed recreation can be important to cultural resources. Dispersed recreationists, like other Forest users, impact cultural resources through intentional or unintentional vandalism. Intentional vandalism might include the use of petroglyphs for target practice or the collection of prehistoric artifacts from the surface of a site. An unintentional form of vandalism could be the establishment of a modern camp within the boundaries of a cultural resource property. The degree of these indirect impacts will increase or decrease according to the level of dispersed recreation.

Adverse effects associated with dispersed recreation are difficult to prevent or mitigate.

Wilderness

The Non-Market Alternative (Alt. J) will provide the largest wilderness acreage and subsequently, the greatest wilderness recreational opportunities. Wilderness opportunities in the Market (Alt. I) will be limited to those currently available in the existing Jarbidge Wilderness Area. The Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), Current Budget (Alt. D), Constrained Budget (Alt. E), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), and Current Management (Alt. H) provide for 68, 39, 18, 0, 12 and 27 percent of the roadless area acreage being recommended for wilderness, respectively. The Preferred (Alt. K) will provide for 15 percent of the roadless areas being recommended for wilderness.

Wilderness facilities will receive full service emphasis under the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and Non-Market (Alt. J). The Market (Alt. I) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) will provide minimum level service emphasis. The Preferred (Alt. K) will provide for moderate service emphasis. The other four alternatives will provide for moderate to low level service emphasis.

Wildlife

Under all alternatives, the habitat of threatened or endangered species will be managed so that present habitat levels are increased. The 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Non-Market (Alt. J), Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), and PNV (Alt. C) provide for the greatest increases in big game populations and fish production. This is directly related to an increased level of resource management coordination and habitat improvement. The greatest decrease in big game numbers occurs in the Current Budget (Alt. D), and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) because they provide only modest habitat improvement. Fish production under the Constrained Budget (Alt. E) and Current Budget (Alt. D) is expected to decrease the most because of high levels of stream sedimentation. All other alternatives maintain current populations of big game and fish.

Winter range conditions will not be maintained at present levels under Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E). At the current rate of plant succession, the overall quantity and quality of this habitat will continue to decline slowly in localized areas under these alternatives. Current Management (Alt. H) will improve winter ranges to accommodate current population levels over the planning horizon. The 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Preferred (Alt. K) and Non-Market (Alt. J) maximize direct improvement of winter range habitat improving the ability of the Forest to support larger winter populations of deer.

Habitat for MIS will be maintained or increased slightly under all alternatives except the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) alternatives.

Range

Under the Current Budget (Alt. D), Constrained Budget (Alt. E), and Non-Market (Alt. J), animal unit months (AUMs) decrease gradually until an equilibrium is reached between permit obligation and grazing capacity. This decrease could be eliminated or reduced by maintenance and construction of improvements by permittees. Under the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and PNV (Alt. C), AUMs remain constant. AUMs increase under the 1985 RPA (Alt. F) Market (Alt. I), and Preferred (Alt. K).

Range conditions improve more rapidly in the Market (Alt. I), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Current Management (Alt. H), and Preferred (Alt. K). Under the Constrained Budget (Alt. E), Current Budget (Alt. D), and Non-Market (Alt. J), range conditions decline.

In the 1985 RPA (Alt. F), concentrated efforts would be made to control and eradicate noxious weeds in all three priority levels. In the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), Market Opportunity (Alt. I) and Preferred (Alt. K), concentrated efforts would be made to control noxious weeds in Priority 1, with spot control efforts in Priority 2 and 3. In the Current Budget (Alt. D), Current Management (Alt. H), and Non-Market (Alt. J), effort would be made to control noxious weeds in Priority 1. In the Constrained Budget (Alt. E), only new outbreaks in Priority 1 would be treated. A list of the priority noxious weeds can be found starting on page IV-18 of the FEIS. Under all alternatives, sensitive plant species are maintained.

Wild horses and burros will be managed according to specified management plans under all alternatives except the Constrained Budget (Alt. E). Under this alternative, the herds will increase and no management practices will be implemented.

Timber (Woodland Products)

The 1,003,350 acres of unreserved woodland cover type on the Humboldt includes about 530,250 acres of pinyon-juniper which, as of the 1963 timber inventory, were considered to be potentially manageable for the production of a number of miscellaneous forest products. Virtually all of the woodland products (fuelwood, Christmas trees, pinenuts and a few posts) are harvested from these pinyon-juniper stands.

The 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Market (Alt. I) and Preferred (Alt. K) produce the greatest volume of these products. Outputs for all products except pinenuts increase slightly under these alternatives. The production of pinenuts is cyclic by nature and is expected to decrease moderately after five years, then increase slightly for all alternatives. The Constrained Budget (Alt. E) will produce the lowest volumes of woodland products. The Non-Market (Alt. J) and Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) will produce the next lowest volume of these outputs. The Current Management (Alt. H) production lies about midway between all alternatives.

Soil and Water

Water quality will meet standards under all alternatives. Watershed improvement projects will be completed at a moderate pace under Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), Current Management (Alt. H), Market (Alt. I), Non-Market (Alt. J), and the Preferred (Alt. K). However, the current needs for watershed improvement will not be satisfied by the end of the planning period in any of the above mentioned alternatives. In the 1985 RPA (Alt. F) watershed improvement will occur at a maximum rate, with current needs being satisfied by the year 2000. Coordination will be greatest under the 1985 RPA (Alt. F) and the least under the Constrained Budget (Alt. E).

Water yield will remain virtually constant under all alternatives. Long-term soil productivity will be greatest under the 1985 RPA (Alt. F) and Preferred (Alt. K).

Minerals

The scope of locatable mineral activity allowed in an alternative is dependent upon the amount of land on which mining claims or locatable mineral leases may be filed. Mining claims and locatable mineral leases are restricted by administrative withdrawals and Federal legislation. These restrictions, except for the amount of recommended wilderness, are essentially the same in all alternatives. Since wilderness designation normally does not allow filing of new mining claims or activity on existing claims without valid discoveries, the locatable mineral activity is expected to vary in alternatives in proportion to wilderness acres. Following are the acres by alternative on which leasable and locatable mineral activity will be restricted.

ALTERNATIVE	ACRES WITHDRAWN FROM LOCATABLE AND LEASABLE MINERALS
A. Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A)	1,233,951
C. PNV (Alt. C)	720,197
D. Current Budget (Alt. D)	336,689
E. Constrained Budget (Alt. E)	64,667
F. 1985 RPA (Alt. F)	221,762
H. Current Management (Alt. H)	489,822
I. Markter (Alt. I)	64,667
J. Non-Market (Alt. J)	1,813,806
K. Preferred (Alt. K)	339,278

The Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association (RMOGA) has developed a system to ensure that leasable minerals are considered fairly in the planning process. The RMOGA system considers geologic favorability and access restrictions. Numerical values are assigned to these factors which then become multipliers with the acreages of the areas under consideration. These numbers are related in a matrix form to arrive at a product which is called the "opportunity index." "Opportunities indices" can be computed for management areas and planning alternatives to rate the impact of the various alternatives on the development of leasable minerals. A simplified version of this system was developed in the Intermountain Region and documented by a letter dated June 12, 1984. Guidance in the letter stated that: "all Forest in R-4 the Intermountain Region with significant oil and gas potential should use this format to display the effects of the various alternatives on the availablity of the oil and gas resource."

Oil/gas and geothermal potential (geologic favorability) is considered to be low, except for a relatively small area on the east flank of the Grant Range.

Access restrictions on the Forest are minimal, with the exception of those areas recommended for wilderness. In the case of areas which become established wilderness, there will be no new leasing and very restricted or no access.

Considering the low oil/gas and geothermal potential and the low access, restrictions on this Forest resulted in the decision not to use the RMOGA or the Intermountain Region rating systems. Comparison of the "opportunity indices" or the matrices would result in a rating of the planning alternatives impact to leasable mineral/energy development directly in relation to the acres withdrawn by each planning alternative. The rating from "most favorable" to "least favorable" would be the alternatives listed in order from that one which withdraws the least acres to that which withdraws the most acres. Considering the uniformity of potential and access restriction, the rating comparisons would be almost straight line; that is, an alternative which withdraws only 1,000 acres would have half the impact to leasable development as an alternative which withdraws 2,000 acres.

Listed below are the alternatives in order from most favorable to least favorable for leasable development. This rating essentially applies also to locatable minerals.

RATING OF ALTERNATIVES FROM MOST FAVORABLE TO MINERALS/ENERGY DEVELOPMENT TO LEAST FAVORABLE TO MINERALS/ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

RATING	ALTERNATIVE	ACRES WITHDRAWN	PERCENT OF FOREST
1	Market (Alt. I)	64,667	2.6
2	1985 RPA (Alt. F)	221,762	8.8
3	Constrained Budget (Alt. E)	303,505	12.0
4	Current Budget (Alt. D)	336,689	13.3
5	Preferred (Alt. K)	339,278	13.4
6	Current Management (Alt. H)	489,822	19.3
7	PNV (Alt. C)	720,197	28.4
8	Wilderness/Commodity	1,233,951	48.8
9	Non-Market (Alt. J)	1,813,806	71.8

Development of oil and gas leases and proposals for mining claim operations will be carefully evaluated on a case-by-case basis through the environmental analysis process under all alternatives. The budget associated with each alternative will determine the Forest Service's capability to process and approve mineral proposals.

The 1985 RPA (Alt. F) provides for processing all proposals (295 cases) and the manpower to ensure proper mitigation and rehabilitation. The Significant Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), Current Management (Alt. H), Non-Market (Alt. J) and Preferred Alternative (Alt. K) will provide the capability to process proposals in numbers similar to the current workload (approximately 230 cases) and to provide for some rehabilitation control. During peak years some cases may be deferred. The Current Budget (Alt. D), Constrained Budget (Alt. E), and Market Opportunity (Alt. I) do not provide sufficient budget for processing cases (approximately 200) to keep up with the workload. Some cases will be delayed, and the there will be temporary degradation of sites and possible delayed rehabilitation.

Lands

Land use requests come from private and government sources. Demand for special use permits is expected to remain the same under all alternatives, but administration of existing special use permits and evaluation of applications will vary by alternative.

The Current Budget (Alt. D), Constrained Budget (Alt. E), and Curent Management (Alt. H) provide for administration of special uses to protect health and safety or prevent damage to resources. These alternatives allow new special uses for community service, public health and safety, and other essential services. Limited staffing will cause long delays in processing new applications.

The Non-Market (Alt. J) and Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) provide a higher level of administration for existing special uses, but reduce the number of electronic sites. The time for processing applications will be shorter under these two alternatives.

The 1985 RPA (Alt. F) and Market (Alt. I) provide quicker processing of applications.

The Preferred Alternative (Alt. K) provides for administration of existing permits at a level that protects health and safety and prevents damage to resources. New applications will be promptly processed.

The number of utility corridors will remain the same under all alternatives.

The Forest does not expect any requests for major changes in existing highways. Therefore, highway corridors remain unchanged in all alternatives.

Evaluation of existing mineral withdrawals will likely result in some recisions. Withdrawal review is required by law and will occur in all alternatives.

The 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Market (Alt. I), and Preferred (Alt. K) prescribe land line survey and posting adequate to meet resource activity needs and prevent most occupancy trespass. In constrast, the Current Budget (Alt. D), Non-Market (Alt. J), Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), and Current Management (Alt. H) provide land line survey and posting adequate for resource activities but not to prevent occupancy trespass. The Constrained Budget (Alt. E) will not meet the needs of resource activities and will not prevent occupancy trespass.

Fire Protection

The fire protection organization will be maintained at the Current Management (Alt. H) level in all alternatives to provide the fire protection necessary to protect the watersheds on the Forest.

Most fuels treatment will result from other resource activities and utilization primarily through the fuelwood program and vegetative manipulation. The amount accomplished will be directly related to the number of acres of range and wildlife habitat improvement activities accomplished.

The Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and the Non-Market (Alt. J) restrict road construction, so less fuel treatment will be accomplished.

Facilities

Under all alternatives, except the Constrained Budget (Alt. E), adequate maintenance, repair and replacement of all essential buildings and facilities is provided throughout the planning period. All essential facilities will be brought into compliance with and maintained to appropriate health and safety standards. These alternatives provide for replacement of warehousing facilities in the late 1980's or early 1990's, depending on alternative. Under these alternatives, some nonessential buildings and facilities will be removed or otherwise disposed of.

The Constrained Budget (Alt. E) differs from the other alternatives in that fewer buildings will be needed. Those buildings and facilities required for custodial management will be brought into compliance with and maintained to appropriate health and safety standards. Most of the buildings and facilities, however, will deteriorate and will eventually have to be removed or otherwise disposed of. Another difference between this alternative and the other alternatives is that this alternative does not provide for the replacement of warehousing facilities in Elko.

Arterial and collector road reconstruction under the Current Management (Alt. H), Market (Alt. I), and Non-Market (Alt. D) provides for slightly fewer miles of arterial and collector road reconstruction than the alternatives above. The Constrained Budget (Alt. E) provides for no reconstruction. The PNV (Alt. C) provides for slightly more than minimal reconstruction, resulting in an improvement in the arterial and collector road system. The Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and 1985 RPA (Alt. F) both provide for more than minimal reconstruction. Reconstruction programs under these alternatives are designed to accommodate the increased resource needs and outputs and to improve the arterial and collector road system.

The Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and 1985 RPA (Alt. F) provide for a program of local road construction and reconstruction designed to meet increased resource management needs. The 1985 RPA (Alt. F) program will also provide for some improvement in the local road system. All other alternatives provide for very little local road construction and reconstruction. Under these alternatives, the total number of miles of local roads constructed and reconstructed throughout the planning period ranges from zero to nine. The local road system will deteriorate to some extent under these alternatives.

Road maintenance efforts under the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and 1985 RPA (Alt. F) provide for a safe and environmentally sound road system. All roads necessary for resource management activities will be maintained to appropriate standards. A few roads will be closed due to deteriorating road conditions, under these two alternatives.

The PNV (Alt. C), Current Budget (Alt. D), Current Management (Alt. H), Market (Alt. I), Non-Market (Alt .J) and Preferred (Alt. K) provide for adequate maintenance of the arterial and collector roads, and those local roads critical to resource management needs. Much of the local road system will receive little maintenance under these alternatives. As a result, road related environmental degradation will increase and some roads will deteriorate and eventually become impassable.

Under the Constrained Budget alternative (Alt. E), road maintenance efforts will be reduced. Under this alternative the road system will deteriorate. Efforts will be directed to keeping the arterial and collector roads passable, but user safety and comfort will decrease and road related erosion and environmental degradation will increase. Most roads will receive no maintenance under this alternative and some of the roads will deteriorate to the point that they will eventually become impassable.

Bridge replacements under the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and 1985 (Alt. F) will primarily be funded and scheduled at the Forest level. However, some bridge replacements will still be accomplished as specified in the Regional Bridge Replacement Program. For all other alternatives, all bridge replacements will be accomplished as noted in the Regional Bridge Replacement Program.

TABLE II-16
COMPARISON OF RESOURCE OUTPUTS, ACTIVITIES, COSTS & BENEFITS BY ALTERNATIVE
(SHOWN AS CHANGE FROM 1986 OF CURRENT MANAGEMENT)

OUTPUTS	1986 CURRENT MANAGEMENT	A WILD/ COMMODITY	C PNV	D CURRENT BUDGET	E CONSTR-AINED BUDGET	F 1985 RPA	H CURRENT MANAGE-MENT	I MARKET	J NON MARKET	K PREFER-RED
RECREATION										
Developed Recreation Use (RVDs)										
1986	192800	9000	9000	- 2000	0	33000	0	9000	- 1795	16380
1990		11760	13760	-21000	0	41669	2660	11760	-18975	24640
1995		8400	10900	-27100	0	48836	1200	8400	-25000	29080
2000		9200	12200	-33100	0	61045	-1000	9200	-30918	34880
2010		6020	9520	-39600	0	71320	-4180	6020	-37282	38200
2020		4300	8300	-43600	0	76100	-5900	4300	-41049	42480
2035		7100	12100	-45900	0	87200	-3100	7100	-42826	51080
Dispersed Recreation Use (RVDs)										
1986	388751	23845	11317	- 208	-162851	10046	0	-9121	219810	-3100
1990		52645	47331	19173	-162851	50762	21392	990	253094	23928
1995		63888	57656	27137	-151051	66331	30648	8992	266119	34993
2000		72103	63845	32965	-143451	76786	38373	17329	275785	42596
2010		89447	77526	46110	-127651	101008	52116	33659	296674	56782
2020		103308	89664	56830	-115151	116303	64020	46873	311089	68825
2035		118531	103538	69852	-101751	133141	77499	60184	327133	81936
ROS-Semi Primitive Non-Motorized (RVDs)										
1986	33889	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	462
1990		2033	2711	1694	0	3050	1694	1017	2372	2839
1995		2751	3443	2406	1682	4158	2406	1715	3460	3824
2000		3484	3816	2769	2784	4919	3132	2427	4207	4501
2010		4979	4947	3869	3920	6859	4243	2880	5731	5763
2020		6145	5724	4624	5647	8081	5387	5013	6920	6835
2035		7346	6912	5779	1493	9340	6565	6180	8144	8002
ROS-Semi Primitive Motorized (RVDs)										
1986	196439	-173002	-109042	- 66708	-139099	47318	0	0	-186239	-19351
1990		- 17151	-101679	- 97054	-139099	70566	-61104	7870	-177254	- 6607
1995		-165352	- 97990	- 85150	-135837	79683	-53415	29800	-171508	- 1517
2000		-163272	- 96219	- 74078	-134000	83770	-47124	43885	-165530	6294
2010		-154315	- 87792	- 57743	-123717	101311	-33104	61569	-158691	21872
2020		-146863	- 77583	- 44240	-119396	112150	-22759	74407	-154450	32349
2035		-140587	- 71155	- 30417	-144709	123052	-12492	85900	150110	43611

TABLE II-16 (Cont.)

COMPARISON OF RESOURCE OUTPUTS, ACTIVITIES, COSTS & BENEFITS BY ALTERNATIVE
(SHOWN AS CHANGE FROM 1986 OF CURRENT MANAGEMENT)

OUTPUTS	1986 CURRENT MANAGEMENT	A WILD/ COMMODITY	C PNV	D CURRENT BUDGET	E CONSTR- AINED BUDGET	F 1985 RPA	H CURRENT MANAGE- MENT	I MARKET	J NON MARKET	K PREFER- RED
ROS Roaded Natural (RVDs)										
1986	320567	0	0	0	-201800	0	0	0	-34902	11723
1990		3206	6411	16028	-201800	12823	3206	3206	-60612	25163
1995		-3270	3141	2564	-195944	22825	-32	-3270	-71010	32222
2000		-2001	6378	-10361	-192083	39995	-3237	-9619	-89092	41444
2010		-8372	3108	-22769	-188102	54417	-9584	-15835	-90575	46723
2020		-11494	-129	-31703	182050	61917	-12694	-18702	-95175	53528
2035		-8403	6280	-37480	-175583	77216	-9615	-15683	-97429	67202
ROS Rural (RVDs)										
1986	6004	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1100
1990		69	138	345	0	276	69	69	621	1389
1995		-71	68	55	0	491	-1	-71	-872	1540
2000		-44	138	-223	0	861	-70	-208	-1113	1737
2010		-181	68	-490	0	1172	-207	-342	-1345	1850
2020		-248	-2	-682	0	1333	-274	-408	-1456	1996
2035		-181	136	-806	0	1662	-208	-343	-1509	2288
ROS Primitive (RVDs)										
1986	90793	138807	62318	-2541	-81793	-71313	0	-67162	176164	-53927
1990		163207	86469	10119	-81793	-61325	12746	-66453	207242	-50763
1995		171189	92853	13121	-80793	-59031	15849	-77823	218057	-49690
2000		176095	94891	14717	-79993	-58755	17631	-77000	225303	-48952
2010		186315	99674	16602	-79593	-58472	19547	-76634	241280	-47576
2020		193027	102913	18190	-79193	-58119	21419	-76178	251209	-46408
2035		200415	106424	19835	-78793	-57970	23108	-75811	262221	-45136
WILDERNESS										
Wilderness Area (Acres)										
1986	483411	750265	230375	-153133	-418711	-268060	0	-418744	1323984	-150411
1990		750265	230375	-153133	-418711	-268060	0	-418744	1323984	-150411
1995		750265	230375	-153133	-418711	-268060	0	-418744	1323984	-150411
2000		750265	230375	-153133	-418711	-268060	0	-418744	1323984	-150411
2010		750265	230375	-153133	-418711	-268060	0	-418744	1323984	-150411
2020		750265	230375	-153133	-418711	-268060	0	-418744	1323984	-150411
2035		750265	230375	-153133	-418711	-268060	0	-418744	1323984	-150411

TABLE II-16 (Cont.)
COMPARISON OF RESOURCE OUTPUTS, ACTIVITIES, COSTS & BENEFITS BY ALTERNATIVE
(SHOWN AS CHANGE FROM 1986 OF CURRENT MANAGEMENT)

OUTPUTS	1986 CURRENT MANAGEMENT	A WILD/ COMMODITY	C PNV	D CURRENT BUDGET	E CONSTR-AINED BUDGET	F 1985 RPA	H CURRENT MANAGE-MENT	I MARKET	J NON MARKET	K PREFER-RED
Wilderness Use (RVDs)										
1986	90793	138807	62318	-2541	-81793	-71313	0	-79423	176164	-45438
1990		163207	86469	10119	-81793	-61325	12746	-78423	207242	-34717
1995		171189	92853	13121	-80793	-59031	15849	-77823	218057	-31886
2000		176095	94891	14717	-79993	-58755	17631	-77000	225303	-31472
2010		186315	99674	16602	-79593	-58472	19547	-76634	241280	-30844
2020		193027	102913	18190	-79193	-58119	21419	-76178	251209	-30148
2035		200415	106424	19835	-78793	-57970	23108	-75811	262221	-29342
RANGE										
Permitted Livestock Use (AUMs)										
1986	301583	502	235	292	-51583	151	0	34	502	107
1990		457	1170	-1997	-51583	6276	-4230	3319	38	2123
1995		-6830	-3915	-9891	-51583	7633	-8297	-1168	-8506	-1285
2000		-6605	-2851	-12404	-51583	14125	-7353	907	-7570	880
2010		-4479	605	-12057	-51583	25197	-4687	4892	-5668	6002
2020		-1454	5529	-9913	-51583	31028	7	10161	-4048	12628
2035		-1415	6170	-11827	-51583	32417	1870	10255	-2872	15038
Wild Horse & Burro Use (AUMs)										
1986	1471	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1990		459	177	732	732	60	94	397	459	29
1995		981	680	1433	1433	519	571	879	981	29
2000		1530	1142	2145	2145	726	1007	1390	1530	79
2010		2626	2140	3788	3788	1779	1968	2360	2626	129
2020		2826	2340	4366	4366	1816	2150	2483	2863	129
2035		3059	2573	5307	5307	1840	2345	2559	3120	129
WOODLAND PRODUCTS										
Fuelwood (Cords)										
1986	4368	-1582	-598	-8	-3768	2137	0	794	-2130	763
1990		-1549	-560	7	-3768	2234	-15	811	-2118	755
1985		-1495	-443	-140	-3768	2440	121	1029	-2076	954
2000		-1490	-440	157	-3788	2470	132	1055	-2069	971
2010		-1475	-403	192	-3768	2502	154	1090	-2059	1004
2020		-1458	-377	218	-3768	2543	170	1125	-2047	1027
2035		-1403	-338	270	-3768	2681	194	1279	-1999	1027

TABLE II-16 (Cont.)
COMPARISON OF RESOURCE OUTPUTS, ACTIVITIES, COSTS & BENEFITS BY ALTERNATIVE
(SHOWN AS CHANGE FROM 1986 OF CURRENT MANAGEMENT)

OUTPUTS	1986 CURRENT MANAGEMENT	A WILD/ COMMODITY	C PNV	D CURRENT BUDGET	E CONSTR-AINED BUDGET	F 1985 RPA	H CURRENT MANAGE-MENT	I MARKET	J NON MARKET	K PREFER-RED
Christmas Trees (Trees)										
1986	2674	-886	-533	24	-1074	1527	0	473	-1260	176
1990		-597	-47	2029	-1074	3160	1479	2250	-950	2337
1995		-545	-45	1393	-874	2734	1303	1631	-958	915
2000		-961	-494	415	-874	1719	107	699	-1166	140
2010		-682	-162	909	-874	2321	748	1213	-992	689
2020		-552	36	1086	-674	2541	911	1445	-926	902
2035		-549	78	1092	-674	2523	903	1463	-924	878
Pinenuts (pounds)										
1986	26195	83	413	2202	-21695	22409	0	6384	-550	3538
1990		-14643	-14313	-11943	-21695	-9777	-14145	-11698	-14695	-10488
1995		-17598	-17173	-17051	-21695	-14117	-16456	-15957	-18221	-15024
2000		-17647	-17211	-16976	-21695	-13883	-15521	-15998	-18141	-14303
2010		-17220	-16712	-16513	-21695	-13607	-15640	-15477	-17779	-14263
2020		-17220	-16712	-16513	-21695	-13607	-15640	-15477	-17779	-14263
2035		-17212	-16712	-16513	-21695	-13611	-15572	-15477	-17771	-14096
WATER & SOIL Water Meeting Forest Goals (Acres Feet)										
1986	936000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1990		27000	27000	14000	14000	134000	27000	14000	41000	27000
1995		55000	41000	14000	14000	217000	41000	27000	55000	41000
2000		82000	68000	27000	27000	298000	55000	41000	101000	55000
2010		122000	95000	41000	41000	395000	95000	111000	136000	82000
2020		164000	136000	68000	68000	421000	122000	95000	190000	109000
2035		231000	190000	95000	95000	421000	163000	136000	258000	150000
MINERALS Acres Leased (Acres)										
1986	318581	-227436	-69135	18078	43245	16801	0	43245	-234254	26288
1990		-220395	-43281	46587	77246	46710	30761	77246	-228062	56006
1995		-217429	-46639	55285	88247	56637	32688	88247	-225732	65724
2000		-216901	-45887	60286	93248	59144	35429	93248	-225204	69739
2010		-216373	-45115	65286	98248	61651	38170	98248	-224676	73755
2020		-216373	-45115	65286	98248	61651	38170	98248	-224676	73755
2035		-215373	-45115	65286	98248	61651	38170	98248	-224676	73755

TABLE II-16 (Cont.)

COMPARISON OF RESOURCE OUTPUTS, ACTIVITIES, COSTS & BENEFITS BY ALTERNATIVE
(SHOWN AS CHANGE FROM 1986 OF CURRENT MANAGEMENT)

OUTPUTS	1986 CURRENT MANAGEMENT	A WILD/ COMMODITY	C PNV	D CURRENT BUDGET	E CONST-RAINED BUDGET	F 1985 RPA	H CURRENT MANAGE MENT	I MARKET	J NON MARKET	K PREFER-RED
WILDLIFE & FISH										
Wildlife Use (WFUDs)										
1986	149461	-19	-5	1	139	0	0	0	0	-59
1990		329	281	303	139	276	204	158	307	233
1995		553	579	-32	-261	531	241	-82	672	745
2000		1176	1373	-1079	-1661	1354	385	-87	1539	1221
2010		1794	2441	-1350	-2161	2382	627	-107	2537	1811
2020		2687	3289	-2355	-3561	3274	683	244	3440	2559
2035		3071	3820	-2811	-4261	4009	900	-125	3989	3260
HABITAT CAPABILITY										
Index										
Deer										
1986	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1990		1	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0
1995		2	1	-1	-3	1	1	0	1	0
2000		3	2	-1	-3	2	1	0	2	0
2010		4	4	-1	-3	4	1	0	5	0
2020		4	5	-2	-5	5	0	-1	5	0
2035		4	5	-2	-6	6	-1	-1	5	0
Sage Grouse										
1986	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0
1990		0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0
1995		0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0
2000		0	1	0	-2	0	0	0	0	0
2010		1	1	0	-2	1	0	0	0	1
2020		1	1	0	-2	2	1	0	1	1
2035		1	1	0	-2	2	1	0	1	1
Goshawk										
1986	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1990		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1995		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2000		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2010		0	1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0
2020		0	1	-1	-2	0	0	0	1	-1
2035		0	1	-2	-2	0	0	0	1	-1
Trout										
1986	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1990		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1995		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2000		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2010		0	0	0	-1	0	1	0	1	1
2020		0	-1	0	-2	1	1	0	2	1
2035		0	-1	0	-2	2	1	0	2	1

TABLE II-16 (Cont.)
COMPARISON OF RESOURCE OUTPUTS, ACTIVITIES, COSTS & BENEFITS BY ALTERNATIVE
(SHOWN AS CHANGE FROM 1986 OF CURRENT MANAGEMENT)

ACTIVITIES	1986 CURRENT MANAGE-MENT	A WILD/ COM-MODITY	C PNV	D CURR BUDGET	E CONST-RAINED BUDGET	F 1985 RPA	H CURRENT MANAGE-MENT	I MARKET	J NON MARKET	K PREFER-RED
WILDLIFE & FISH										
Structural Habitat Improvement (Structures)										
1986	3	0	2	-2	-1	10	0	1	0	86
1990		0	2	-2	-1	10	0	1	0	111
1995		0	1	-2	0	4	0	1	-2	-3
2000		0	1	-2	0	6	0	1	0	-3
2010		0	1	-2	0	4	0	1	-2	-3
2020		0	1	-2	0	4	0	1	0	-3
2035		0	1	-2	0	4	0	1	-2	-3
Nonstructural Habitat Improvement (Acres)										
1986	118	117	103	-26	-59	159	0	67	23	115
1990		117	103	-26	-59	159	0	67	123	812
1995		-5	-26	-57	-59	20	-30	-36	-5	157
2000		0	-16	-46	-59	-41	-26	-36	-6	157
2010		18	-10	-46	-59	4	-21	-46	20	157
2020		-13	-24	-46	-59	-5	-24	-46	-10	157
2035		15	4	-38	-59	-21	-10	-42	16	157
WOODLANDS										
Timber Stand Improvement (Acres)										
1986	24	-5	0	5	-24	72	0	29	-13	-11
1990		-5	0	5	-24	72	0	29	-13	29
1995		-3	21	35	-24	90	29	43	-8	32
2000		3	16	29	-24	85	24	40	-8	32
2010		-4	16	24	-24	92	21	35	-8	34
2020		-5	19	27	-24	96	24	39	-7	37
2035		-5	19	28	-24	97	25	41	-5	38
WATER & SOIL										
Improvements (Acres)										
1986	11	6	1	-6	-6	63	0	-3	8	8
1990		6	1	-6	-6	63	0	-3	8	8
1995		2	0	-6	-6	35	-2	-4	4	7
2000		2	0	-6	-6	34	-2	-4	4	6
2010		1	-2	-6	-6	16	-3	-4	2	4
2020		1	-2	-6	-6	14	-3	-4	2	4
2035		1	-2	-6	-6	16	-3	-4	2	4

TABLE II-16 (Cont.)
COMPARISON OF RESOURCE OUTPUTS, ACTIVITIES, COSTS & BENEFITS BY ALTERNATIVE
(SHOWN AS CHANGE FROM 1986 OF CURRENT MANAGEMENT)

ACTIVITIES	1986 CURRENT MANAGE-MENT	A WILD/ COM-MODITY	C PNV	D CURRENT BUDGET	E CONST-RAINED BUDGET	F 1985 RPA	H CURRENT MANAGE-MENT	I MARKET	J NON MARKET	K PREFER-RED
MINERALS										
Lease & Permits (Cases)										
1986	226	-8	0	-16	-24	68	0	-8	-4	0
1990		-8	0	-16	-24	68	0	-8	-4	0
1995		4	9	-17	-36	72	15	-13	8	13
2000		4	7	-17	-36	72	9	-13	7	8
2010		-4	-1	-25	-38	76	9	-19	3	1
2020		-3	1	-25	-40	73	9	-19	1	7
2035		-3	1	-25	-40	69	8	-19	1	7
HUMAN & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT										
Senior Employment (Enrollees)										
1986	8	0	0	0	-8	0	0	0	0	0
1990		0	0	0	-8	0	0	0	0	0
1995		33	33	33	-8	33	33	33	33	3
2000		33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	3
2010		75	75	75	-8	75	75	75	75	3
2020		75	75	75	-8	75	75	75	75	3
2035		116	116	116	-8	116	116	116	116	3
Volunteers (Enrollees)										
1986	5	-2	3	0	-2	5	0	0	0	2
1990		-2	3	0	-2	5	0	0	0	2
1995		28	40	28	10	50	28	25	30	5
2000		28	40	28	10	50	28	25	30	5
2010		58	85	58	25	105	55	53	63	5
2020		58	88	58	25	105	55	53	63	5
2035		93	135	90	40	160	88	83	103	5
FACILITIES										
Trail Construction/ Reconstruction (Miles)										
1986	1.2	0.0	-0.1	-0.3	-1.2	0.4	0.0	-1.2	0.0	3.8
1990		0.0	-0.1	-0.3	-1.2	0.4	0.0	-1.2	0.0	3.8
1995		-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2	3.8
2000		-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	3.8
2010		-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-0.9	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	3.8
2020		-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	3.8
2035		-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	3.8

TABLE II-16 (Cont.)
COMPARISON OF RESOURCE OUTPUTS, ACTIVITIES, COSTS & BENEFITS BY ALTERNATIVE
(SHOWN AS CHANGE FROM 1986 OF CURRENT MANAGEMENT)

ACTIVITIES	1986 CURRENT MANAGE-MENT	A WILD/ COM-MODITY	C PNV	D CURRENT BUDGET	E CONST-RAINED BUDGET	F 1985 RPA	H CURRENT MANAGE-MENT	I MARKET	J NON MARKET	K PREFER-RED
Arterial and Collector Road Reconstruction (Miles)										
1986	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1990		5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1995		5.0	5.2	0.0	0.0	7.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
2000		6.4	5.5	5.0	0.0	8.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
2010		6.5	5.5	5.0	0.0	8.6	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
2020		6.5	5.6	5.0	0.0	8.6	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
2035		6.5	5.5	5.0	0.0	6.7	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0

TABLE II-16 (Cont.)

COMPARISON OF RESOURCE OUTPUTS, ACTIVITIES, COSTS & BENEFITS BY ALTERNATIVE

(SHOWN AS CHANGE FROM 1986 OF CURRENT MANAGEMENT)

BENEFITS Thousands of dollars (1982)	1986 CURRENT MANAGEMENT	A WILD/ COMMODITY	C PNV	D CURRENT BUDGET	E CONSTRAINED BUDGET	F 1985 RPA	H CURRENT MANAGEMENT	I MARKET	J NON MARKET	K PREFERRED
RECREATION										
1986	1562.36	-271.05	-76.45	-2.78	-638.01	79.4	0	222.40	-418.39	218.23
1990		-240.47	-6.95	-55.60	-603.26	544.88	45.87	272.44	-480.94	319.70
1995		-232.13	-2.78	-56.99	-571.29	628.28	68.11	287.73	-499.01	371.13
2000		-223.79	18.07	-59.77	-539.32	718.63	83.40	323.87	-512.91	423.95
2010		-207.11	44.48	-6.14	-472.60	859.02	120.93	376.69	-519.86	493.45
2020		-182.09	77.84	-6.95	-421.17	939.64	158.46	425.34	-517.08	558.78
2035		-136.22	136.22	34.75	-365.57	1053.62	219.62	492.06	-501.79	643.57
WILDERNESS										
1986	683.88	1089.76	430.90	-16.68	-590.75	-532.37	0	-590.75	1366.37	-430.90
1990		1358.03	697.78	125.10	-579.63	-421.17	141.78	-579.63	1708.31	-311.36
1995		1442.82	765.89	155.68	-572.68	-396.15	175.14	-572.68	1826.46	-282.17
2000		1491.47	782.57	170.97	-564.34	-394.76	191.82	-564.34	1900.13	-278.00
2010		1598.50	829.83	190.43	-558.78	-393.37	211.28	-558.73	2071.10	-273.88
2020		1665.22	860.41	204.33	-554.61	-390.59	227.96	-554.61	2175.35	-266.88
2035		1741.67	895.16	221.01	-594.92	-390.59	244.64	-594.92	2290.72	-259.93
WILDLIFE & FISH										
1986	4717.66	-29.19	-15.29	0	12.51	9.73	0	12.51	-41.70	6.95
1990		-20.85	-5.56	0	13.90	19.46	6.95	16.68	-30.58	18.07
1995		-12.51	5.56	0	0	26.41	9.73	9.73	-18.07	31.97
2000		8.34	29.19	-33.36	-114.66	55.60	13.90	11.12	11.12	48.65
2010		29.19	63.94	-44.48	-58.38	86.18	22.24	11.12	40.31	66.72
2020		56.99	90.35	-73.67	-105.64	112.59	164.02	22.24	68.11	88.96
2035		68.11	107.03	-87.57	-125.10	137.61	31.97	11.12	87.57	109.81
RANGE										
1986	4321.51	6.95	4.17	-738.09	2.78	0	1.39	6.95	-1.39	1.39
1990		6.95	16.68	-27.80	-773.09	90.35	-59.77	48.65	1.39	30.58
1995		-97.30	-55.60	-141.78	-738.65	109.81	-118.15	-16.68	-120.93	-18.07
2000		-94.52	-40.31	-177.92	-738.65	202.94	-104.25	13.90	-108.42	12.51
2010		-63.94	9.73	-172.36	-738.79	361.40	-66.72	70.89	-80.62	86.18
2020		-20.85	79.23	-170.78	-738.79	444.80	0	145.95	-56.99	182.09
2035		-19.46	88.96	-169.58	-738.74	465.65	27.80	147.34	-40.31	215.45

TABLE II-16 (Cont.)
COMPARISON OF RESOURCE OUTPUTS, ACTIVITIES, COSTS & BENEFITS BY ALTERNATIVE
(SHOWN AS CHANGE FROM 1986 OF CURRENT MANAGEMENT)

BENEFITS Thousands of dollars (1982)	1986 CURRENT MANAGE-MENT	A WILD/ COM-MODITY	C PNV	D CURRENT BUDGET	E CONST-RAINED BUDGET	F 1985 RPA	H CURRENT MANAGE-MENT	I MARKET	J NON MARKET	K PREFER-RED
WOODLAND PRODUCTS										
1986	37.563	-15.85	-8.90	-6.05	-30.58	16.68	0	-2.78	-16.68	6.92
1990		-15.58	-8.90	-5.28	-30.58	13.90	-1.39	0	-19.46	2.75
1995		-16.68	-8.06	-2.78	-29.19	12.79	-5.00	0.56	-20.29	-0.03
2000		-17.51	-7.78	-4.73	-19.19	10.56	-7.23	-1.39	-20.85	-1.70
2010		-16.96	-6.81	-3.75	-29.19	12.09	-3.47	1.25	-20.29	-0.17
2020		-16.82	-6.67	-2.36	-29.19	12.23	-3.47	1.25	-20.29	1.22
2035		-21.60	-6.67	-2.22	-29.19	13.71	10.38	1.30	-20.29	2.47
MINERALS										
1986	8178.76	-316.92	-97.30	25.02	59.77	22.24	0	59.77	-326.65	36.14
1990		41.70	287.73	412.83	55.92	412.83	390.59	455.92	31.97	433.68
1995		436.46	674.15	815.93	861.80	749.21	783.96	861.80	425.34	829.83
2000		-954.93	-717.24	-569.90	-524.03	-639.40	-604.65	-524.03	-967.44	-557.39
2010		-284.16	-2508.95	-1961.29	-1915.42	-2161.45	-2832.82	-1915.42	-3028.81	-2784.14
2020		-4581.44	-4343.75	-4189.46	-4143.06	-4263.13	-4226.99	-4143.06	-4592.56	-4178.34
2035		-4581.44	-4343.75	-4189.46	-4143.59	-4263.13	-4226.99	-4143.59	-4592.56	-4178.34
RETURNS TO TREASURY										
1986	977.99	-326.14	-99.11	25.72	-574.89	40.88	0	65.87	-340.33	45.31
1990		-314.81	-58.42	67.04	-574.89	96.04	42.69	124.99	-334.85	95.15
1995		-321.08	-69.25	66.37	-573.50	114.24	40.79	133.83	-345.64	103.04
2000		-320.41	-66.89	67.19	-573.50	128.06	44.11	142.85	-344.34	111.83
2010		-315.67	-59.41	75.55	-573.50	152.25	53.52	157.53	-340.69	127.63
2020		-310.47	-50.80	79.40	-573.50	163.17	61.65	166.84	-338.23	139.73
2035		-309.65	48.50	76.56	-570.72	167.40	65.38	168.16	-335.31	144.96

TABLE II-16 (Cont.)

COMPARISON OF RESOURCE OUTPUTS, ACTIVITIES, COSTS & BENEFITS BY ALTERNATIVE

(SHOWN AS CHANGE FROM 1986 OF CURRENT MANAGEMENT)

COSTS Thousands of dollars (1982)	1986 CURRENT MANAGEMENT	A WILD/ COMMODITY	C PNV	D CURRENT BUDGET	E CONSTRAINED BUDGET	F 1985 RPA	H CURRENT MANAGEMENT	I MARKET	J NON MARKET	K PREFFERED
TOTAL BUDGET										
1986	3426.35	1004.97	300.24	-382.25	-1202.35	3184.49	0	-104.25	44.48	903.38
1990		697.78	355.84	-378.08	-1202.35	2490.88	91.74	-41.70	130.66	879.75
1995		572.40	361.40	-378.91	-1202.35	2042.74	215.73	94.52	187.37	928.40
2000		584.08	210.17	-378.91	-1202.35	1956.84	118.15	36.70	115.65	878.36
2010		334.71	49.21	-368.35	-1202.35	1568.61	-21.55	-158.60	-134.97	618.43
2020		472.74	90.07	-375.72	-1202.35	1705.39	-20.29	-137.75	-105.36	585.07
2035		177.64	-132.24	-412.46	-1202.35	1149.16	-188.48	-291.99	-308.95	322.36
PROTECTION										
1986	189.33	-2.25	-2.25	-2.25	-7.30	10.82	0	3.36	-7.30	-0.86
1990		-2.25	-2.25	-2.25	-7.30	10.82	0	3.36	-7.30	-0.86
1995		0.49	0.49	0.49	-4.64	13.78	2.49	6.18	-4.64	1.88
2000		1.04	1.04	1.04	-4.10	14.37	2.94	6.75	-4.10	1.88
2010		1.60	1.60	1.60	-3.56	14.97	3.51	7.33	-3.56	3.25
2020		2.00	2.00	2.00	-3.17	15.39	3.91	7.74	-3.17	3.53
2035		3.17	3.17	3.17	-2.03	16.65	5.09	8.95	-2.03	-83.04
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION										
1986	807.59	0	0	0	-69.78	0	0	0	0	0
1990		0	0	0	-69.78	0	0	0	0	0
1995		0	0	0	-69.78	0	0	0	0	0
2000		0	0	0	-69.78	0	0	0	0	0
2010		0	0	0	-69.78	0	0	0	0	0
2020		0	0	0	-69.78	0	0	0	0	0
2035		0	0	0	-69.78	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ROAD INVESTMENTS										
1986	2.78	529.59	-2.78	-2.78	-2.78	967.44	0	0	-2.78	6.95
1990		151.51	-2.78	-2.78	-2.78	393.37	0	0	-2.78	6.95
1995		196.82	169.58	-2.78	-2.78	362.51	164.02	164.02	161.52	169.58
2000		238.52	166.24	148.73	-2.78	403.10	152.07	152.07	149.01	159.02
2010		211.70	167.08	148.73	-2.78	383.36	151.51	151.51	149.01	157.07
2020		264.93	169.86	148.73	-2.78	436.60	151.51	151.51	149.01	159.16
2035		241.21	167.08	148.73	-2.78	336.47	151.32	149.01	149.01	157.07

TABLE II-16 (Cont.)
COMPARISON OF RESOURCE OUTPUTS, ACTIVITIES, COSTS & BENEFITS BY ALTERNATIVE
(SHOWN AS CHANGE FROM 1986 OF CURRENT MANAGEMENT)

COSTS Thousands of dollars (1982)	1986 CURRENT MANAGEMENT	A WILD/ COMMODITY	C PNV	D CURRENT BUDGET	E CONSTRAINED BUDGET	F 1985 RPA	H CURRENT MANAGEMENT	I MARKET	J NON MARKET	K PREFERRED
RANGE INVESTMENTS										
1986	189.04	0	13.90	-30.58	-179.31	95.91	0	22.24	9.73	48.65
1990		15.29	29.19	-37.53	-179.31	236.30	-16.68	29.19	22.24	50.04
1995		20.29	33.92	-21.13	-173.47	128.84	11.95	35.03	24.46	58.66
2000		67.28	85.90	5.56	-177.36	204.61	36.42	87.01	71.72	114.81
2010		-13.90	-3.89	-32.80	-177.68	65.33	6.26	-5.28	-11.12	17.93
2020		-6.12	6.26	-18.63	-177.22	76.17	5.84	-1.53	-2.92	19.88
2035		-84.51	-60.79	-88.87	-179.03	61.16	-52.73	-63.01	-80.81	-30.86
OTHER INVESTMENTS										
1986	41.70	0	4.17	-34.75	-34.75	81.69	0	2.78	-27.80	155.64
1990		-31.97	30.58	-34.75	-34.75	165.41	-20.85	-30.58	-29.19	200.12
1995		-32.25	-26.97	-35.87	-34.75	77.56	-28.63	-29.47	-33.64	124.23
2000		-31.70	-25.58	-35.03	-34.75	49.48	-34.19	-28.91	-33.08	120.33
2010		-14.87	-10.29	-35.72	-34.75	50.32	-11.26	-12.23	-32.94	143.13
2020		-21.27	-16.26	-35.86	-34.75	47.82	-34.61	-18.35	-33.50	120.89
2035		-25.48	-20.85	-35.68	-34.75	24.74	-27.43	-22.70	-33.18	112.27
FACILITIES (FA&O)										
1986	104.25	0	0	0	-104.25	0	0	0	0	0
1990		105.64	31.97	52.82	-104.25	105.25	52.82	52.82	52.82	52.82
1995		47.82	68.67	16.40	-76.45	47.82	68.67	68.67	68.67	68.67
2000		-26.97	-26.97	-26.97	-76.45	-26.97	-26.97	-26.97	-26.97	-26.97
2010		0.28	0.28	0.28	-76.45	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28
2020		36.83	36.83	36.83	-76.45	36.83	36.83	36.83	36.83	36.83
2035		10.75	10.75	10.75	-76.45	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75
MINERALS										
1986	84.79	-2.78	0	-9.73	-83.40	26.41	0	-8.34	-1.39	105.56
1990		-2.78	0	-8.34	-83.40	30.58	0	-8.34	-2.78	108.34
1995		-2.22	-0.28	-10.56	-83.68	25.58	1.39	-10.84	-1.11	107.78
2000		-2.22	-0.83	-10.84	-83.68	25.30	0.56	-10.84	-1.67	107.23
2010		-3.34	-1.95	-11.95	-83.82	30.86	-0.56	-11.81	-2.64	106.67
2020		-3.20	-1.53	-11.81	-83.82	29.47	0.28	-11.54	-2.08	106.12
2035		-3.34	-1.58	-11.77	-83.77	27.80	0.09	-11.49	-2.32	104.73

TABLE II-16 (Cont.)
COMPARISON OF RESOURCE OUTPUTS, ACTIVITIES, COSTS & BENEFITS BY ALTERNATIVE
(SHOWN AS CHANGE FROM 1986 OF CURRENT MANAGEMENT)

COSTS Thousands of dollars (1982)	1986 CURRENT MANAGEMENT	A WILD/ COMMODITY	C PNV	D CURRENT BUDGET	E CONSTRAINED BUDGET	F 1985 RPA	H CURRENT MANAGEMENT	I MARKET	J NON MARKET	K PREFERRED
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE										
1986	2006.87	480.41	287.20	-302.16	-720.78	2002.22	0	-124.29	74.02	587.44
1990		462.34	269.13	-345.25	-720.78	1548.76	76.45	-88.15	97.65	462.34
1995		341.45	115.99	-325.46	-756.80	1386.65	-4.16	-139.07	-27.89	397.60
2000		338.13	10.37	-461.40	-753.45	1286.95	-12.68	-142.41	-39.26	402.06
2010		153.24	-103.62	-438.49	-753.85	1023.49	-171.29	-288.40	-234.00	190.10
2020		199.57	-107.09	-496.98	-754.38	1063.11	-184.05	-302.41	-249.53	138.66
2035		35.84	-230.02	-438.79	-753.76	671.59	-275.57	-365.81	-350.37	51.44
NON-FOREST SERVICE										
1986	72.28	-4.17	-1.39	-1.39	-22.24	18.07	0	0	-6.95	0
1990		43.09	48.65	51.43	11.12	87.57	54.21	58.38	36.14	48.65
1995		49.21	56.99	51.99	18.62	103.42	61.16	56.99	41.70	63.66
2000		57.82	60.33	59.49	27.245	106.75	62.83	61.16	50.04	61.16
2010		-5.70	-19.46	-23.49	-33.92	23.77	-28.36	-15.29	11.95	-29.75
2020		-16.40	-23.63	-33.64	-41.84	23.21	-29.88	-24.46	1.39	-25.72
2035		-8.71	-3.61	-12.05	-28.17	39.57	-6.86	-1.39	-16.87	1.20

J. ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY

Present net value (PNV) is the measure of economic efficiency used in Forest planning. It is defined as the difference between the discounted dollar value of all priced outputs and the discounted value of all expenditures for management and investment (the process of discounting expresses all values at a common date). PNV is one important component of effect that is included in net public benefits. Any differences in PNV among alternatives may be related to the production of public benefits to which prices have not been assigned. Such benefits include certain outputs, such as increasing numbers of endangered animals; physical conditions, such as the maintenance of areas with particularly pleasing visual qualities; and desirable distributive effects, such as when high levels of commodities are produced to help support dependent communities. Also included are reductions in risk, such as those due to intensification of insect and disease surveys; and improvements in quality, such as those due to increasing recreation site management standards. Similarly, differences in PNV may be related to the production of public benefits to which prices have been assigned. Furthermore, differences in PNV may be directly related to the budget restrictions associated with the alternatives.

An important purpose of this section is to define the differences in the production of public benefits among alternatives that lead to the differences in PNV.

Tables II-17, 18 and 19 summarize the economic information used in defining PNV for each alternative. This information includes total discounted benefits and the contributions to those benefits of individual priced outputs. It also includes total discounted costs of managing the Forest and the the assignment of those costs to major accounting or budgeting cateories of expenditures. (Note: Some combination of costs categories is necessary to support production of any particular priced output on a Forest-wide basis under a system of multiple use and integrated Forest management. Therefore, it is incorrect to assume that there is a one-to-one relationship between the dollar benefits listed under contribution of timber, or other priced output, to total discounted benefits and the costs listed under contribution of timber or other cost category, to total discounted costs.)

Each alternative represents the most cost-efficient combination of management prescriptions to accomplish the objectives established for a particular alternative. The most cost-efficient set of management prescriptions for each alternative is attained by maximizing the Present Net Value (PNV). Version II FORPLAN, a linear programming model, produced a tentative assignment and scheduling of resource outputs over time. Since all outputs from the Forest could not be quantified with FORPLAN, the tentative assignment was analyzed by the ID Team and a final assignment was made.

Resources valued or priced in the model and included in the PNV analysis include woodland products, recreation, wildlife, range, wilderness, and minerals. Land assignments vary between alternatives because each alternative represents a specific objective and these objectives influence the management of land.

Nonpriced outputs are displayed in Table II-18 in terms of physical measures such as numbers, acres, and pounds. These values are not included in the PNV analysis but are displayed to show total benefits from the Forest.

The social effects of each alternative are found in Chapter IV.

K. HOW THE ALTERNATIVES ADDRESS THE PLANNING PROBLEMS

Table II-20 summarizes how each planning problem is addressed by the nine alternatives in a comparative format. Most planning problems are treated differently by each alternative although some are treated the same by some alternatives. Appendix A in the appendix document describes all nine plannning problems in further detail.

TABLE II-17
PRESENT NET VALUE AND PRICED OUTPUTS FOR ALTERNATIVES
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS (1982)
DISCOUNT RATE IS 4%

				PVB BY RESOURCE							PVC BY MAJOR COST CATEGORIES								
ALTERNATIVE	PNV	PVC	PVB	RECRE-ATION	WILD-ERNESS	WILD-LIFE & FISH	GRAZING	MINER-ALS	WOOD- 1/ LAND PRODUCTS	OTHER 2/	PRO-TECTION	GENERAL ADMIN	ROADS	RANGE INVESTS.	OTHER 3/ INVESTS	FACILITIES (FA & O)	O & M	MINERALS	NON-FS COSTS
A - WILD-ERNESS/ COMMODITY EMPHASIS	322.33	88.05	410.38	29.43	47.76	103.00	93.22	36.00	0.44	0.53	4.15	17.61	5.09	4.18	0.59	2.82	49.91	1.79	1.91
C - PRESENT NET VALUE (PNV)	326.78	80.48	407.26	34.76	31.68	103.81	94.49	141.57	0.65	0.30	4.15	17.61	2.95	4.50	0.58	2.79	44.19	1.83	1.88
D - CURRENT BUDGET	325.03	68.22	393.25	33.49	18.39	102.12	91.45	146.54	0.74	0.52	4.15	17.61	2.05	3.53	0.14	2.62	34.71	1.61	1.80
E - CON-STRAINED BUDGET	303.94	49.90	353.84	22.98	2.46	102.12	78.14	147.51	0.18	0.45	4.04	16.09	0.00	0.31	0.14	0.35	27.61	0.02	1.34
F - 1985 RPA UPDATE	287.16	119.68	406.84	50.49	5.95	104.34	99.77	144.72	1.08	0.49	4.44	17.61	9.30	6.62	2.52	2.82	71.13	2.46	2.78
H - CURRENT MANAGEMENT	317.41	77.28	394.69	36.31	18.84	103.24	93.12	142.00	0.72	0.46	4.20	17.61	2.74	4.20	0.40	2.81	41.61	1.86	1.85
I - MARKET OPPORTUN-ITIES	316.78	75.06	391.84	41.68	2.46	103.16	95.50	147.51	0.82	0.71	4.27	17.61	2.74	4.49	0.64	2.81	38.97	1.61	1.92
J - NON-MARKET OPPOR-TUNITIES	345.07	76.38	421.45	23.24	57.13	103.32	92.82	144.50	0.38	0.06	4.04	17.61	2.67	4.28	0.20	2.57	41.25	1.81	1.95
K - PRE-FERRED	303.80	92.74	396.54	43.75	8.51	104.08	95.83	143.01	0.83	0.53	3.93	17.61	2.86	5.04	4.03	2.81	50.41	4.18	1.87

1/ - Includes Fuelwood, Christmas Trees, and Pinenuts.

2/ - Includes Special Use Permits and Posts.

3/ - Includes Recreation and Wildlife.

TABLE II-18
PRESENT NET VALUE AND NON-PRICED OUTPUTS FOR ALTERNATIVES
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS (1982) DISCOUNT RATE IS 4%

	PRESENT NET VALUE			NON-PRICED OUTPUTS							
ALTERNATIVE	PNV	PVC	PVB	DEER NUMBERS	GRAZING CAPACITY (M AUMs)	RANGE COND FAIR/ BETTER	LAND DISTURBED NON-ENERGY (S)	LAND DISTURBED ENERGY (ACRES) (ACRES)	WILD-ERNESS (M ACRES)	ROS SPM (M ACRES)	ROS SPNM (M ACRES)
A - Wilderness/ Commodity	322.33	88.05	410.38								
1985				53,000	294.1	69	588	8	1233.7	130.1	909.9
1990				53,000	294.1	69	588	8	1233.7	140.3	954.5
1995				53,300	298.9	68	604	13	1233.7	172.5	983.8
2000				53,900	303.6	69	763	14	1233.7	184.1	1003.5
2010				54,400	305.0	69	659	12	1233.7	233.8	1043.6
2020				55,000	311.5	70	659	12	1233.7	275.1	1074.9
2035				55,100	311.4	71	658	12	1233.7	310.0	1107.2
C - Present Net Value (PNV)	326.78	80.48	407.26								
1985				53,000	294.7	69	585	8	713.8	485.0	909.0
1990				53,000	294.7	69	585	8	713.8	525.9	982.7
1995				53,400	301.8	70	600	12	713.8	546.4	1002.4
2000				54,100	308.4	72	759	13	713.8	556.2	1012.4
2010				54,900	312.3	73	654	12	713.8	603.0	1042.7
2020				55,500	320.6	75	654	12	713.8	659.6	1053.6
2035				55,600	320.5	76	654	11	713.8	695.3	1095.5
D - Current Budget	325.03	68.22	393.25								
1985				53,000	293.6	69	776	10	330.0	720.0	909.9
1990				53,000	293.6	69	776	10	330.3	551.6	955.4
1995				52,700	296.4	67	810	14	330.3	617.6	974.5
2000				51,600	297.7	67	915	16	330.3	679.1	984.3
2010				51,300	298.0	67	812	14	330.3	769.8	1013.8
2020				50,200	303.6	68	812	14	330.3	844.7	1034.1
2035				49,800	302.7	68	817	13	330.3	921.4	1065.1
E - Constrained Budget	303.94	49.90	353.84								
1985				53,000	292.7	69	1118	11	236.9	318.2	909.9
1990				53,000	292.7	69	1118	11	236.9	318.2	909.9
1995				52,500	292.7	69	1195	16	236.9	336.3	955.1
2000				51,200	292.7	69	1194	18	236.9	346.5	984.7
2010				50,500	292.7	69	1101	16	236.9	403.6	1015.2
2020				49,200	292.7	69	1101	16	236.9	427.6	1061.5
2035				48,700	292.7	69	1077	16	236.9	453.6	1111.1
F - 1985 RPA Update	287.16	119.68	406.84								
1985				53,000	296.3	70	673	5	215.4	1352.8	909.9
1990				53,000	296.3	70	673	5	215.4	1481.9	991.8
1995				53,400	311.3	72	636	6	215.4	1532.5	1021.6
2000				54,200	324.3	75	635	6	215.4	1555.2	1042.0
2010				55,000	334.7	79	583	7	215.4	1652.5	1094.1
2020				55,700	338.5	81	532	7	215.4	1712.7	1126.9
2035				56,100	339.1	83	532	7	215.4	1773.2	1160.7
H - Current Management	317.41	77.28	394.69								
1985				53,000	294.4	70	581	8	483.4	718.2	909.9
1990				53,000	294.4	70	581	8	483.4	751.1	955.4
1995				53,100	301.4	71	599	12	493.4	793.8	974.5
2000				53,200	305.2	73	658	13	483.4	828.7	994.0
2010				53,200	310.6	75	653	12	483.4	906.5	1023.8
2020				53,000	319.3	77	653	12	483.4	963.9	1054.6
2035				52,800	319.6	80	653	11	483.4	1020.9	1086.2
I - Market Opportunities	316.78	75.06	391.84								
1985				53,000	294.9	69	909	10	64.7	1090.2	909.9
1990				53,000	294.9	69	909	10	64.7	1133.9	937.2
1995				52,800	303.2	69	619	14	64.7	1255.6	956.0
2000				52,800	310.9	71	678	16	64.7	1333.8	975.1
2010				52,800	315.3	72	676	14	64.7	1431.9	1014.1
2020				52,700	323.8	74	676	14	64.7	1503.2	1044.5
2035				52,600	323.9	76	670	14	64.7	1567.0	1075.8
J - Non-Market Opportunities	335.52	76.38	411.90								
1985				53,000	293.9	69	585	8	1807.4	56.6	909.9
1990				53,000	293.9	69	585	8	1807.4	106.5	973.6
1995				53,500	298.0	69	600	12	1807.4	138.4	1002.8
2000				54,200	302.5	69	659	14	1807.4	171.5	1022.9
2010				55,600	304.3	69	655	12	1807.4	209.5	1063.8
2020				55,700	307.8	70	655	12	1807.4	233.0	1095.7
2035				55,700	307.8	70	655	12	1807.4	257.1	1128.6
K - Preferred	303.80	92.74	396.54								
1985				53,000	292.9	70	446	4	333.0	982.8	922.3
1990				53,000	300.0	70	501	17	333.0	1053.6	986.2
1995				53,100	305.1	72	488	11	333.0	1081.7	1012.5
2000				53,400	314.2	75	647	12	333.0	1125.0	1030.8
2010				53,800	319.5	77	572	11	333.0	1211.6	1064.6
2020				53,900	329.6	80	542	11	333.0	1269.8	1093.3
2035				53,700	330.1	83	542	10	333.0	1332.0	1124.8

TABLE II-19
PRESENT NET VALUE IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS (1982)
DISCOUNTED AT 4% AND QUALITATIVE EFFECTS

ALTERNATIVES	PNV	PVC	PVB	NARRATIVE
A - Wild/Commodity Emphasis	322.33	88.05	410.38	Within this alternative, the air quality will remain the same as the current situation, the visual quality will increase, the ROS classification will shift towards non-motorized, wilderness acres will total 1,234 M acres, water quality will remain the same as the current situation, while soil productivity will be maintained.
C - Present Net Value (PNV)	326.78	80.48	407.26	Within this alternative, the air quality will remain the same as the current situation, the visual quality will remain the same, the ROS classification will shift towards non-motorized, wilderness acres will total 649 M acres, water quality will remain the same as the current situation, while soil productivity will be maintained.
D - Current Budget	325.03	68.22	393.25	Within this alternative, the air quality will remain the same as the current situation, the visual quality will increase, the ROS classification will shift towards non-motorized, wilderness acres will total 263 M acres, water quality will remain the same as the current situation, while soil productivity will be maintained.
E - Constrained Budget	303.94	49.90	353.84	Within this alternative, the air quality will remain the same as the current situation, the visual quality will increase, the ROS classification will shift towards non-motorized, wilderness acres will total 65 M acres, water quality will remain the same as the current situation, while soil productivity will be maintained.
F - 1985 RPA Update	287.16	119.68	406.84	Within this alternative, the air quality will remain the same as the current situation, the visual quality will decrease, the ROS classification will shift towards motorized, wilderness acres will total 155 M acres, water quality will remain the same as the current situation, while soil productivity will be maintained.
H - Current Management	317.41	77.28	394.69	Within this alternative, the air quality will remain the same as the current situation, the visual quality will decrease, the ROS classification will shift towards motorized, wilderness acres will total 483 M acres, water quality will remain the same as the current situation, while soil productivity will be maintained.
I - Market Opportunity	316.78	75.06	391.84	Within this alternative, the air quality will remain the same as the current situation, the visual quality will decrease, the ROS classification will shift towards motorized, wilderness acres will total 65 M acres, water quality will remain the same as the current situation, while soil productivity will be maintained.
J - Non-Market Opportunities	345.07	76.38	421.45	Within this alternative, the air quality will remain the same as the current situation, the visual quality will increase, the ROS classification will shift towards non-motorized, wilderness acres will total 1,757 M acres, water quality will remain the same as the current situation, while soil productivity will be maintained.
K - Preferred	303.80	92.74	396.54	Within this alternative, the air quality will remain the same as the current situation, the visual quality will decrease, the ROS classification will shift towards motorized, wilderness acres will total 333 M acres, water quality will remain the same as the current situation, while soil productivity will be maintained.

TABLE II-20
HOW THE ALTERNATIVES ADDRESS THE PLANNING PROBLEMS

PLANNING PROBLEMS	WILDERNESS/ COMMODITY (Alt. A)	PNV (Alt. C)	CURRENT BUDGET (Alt. D)	CONSTRAINED BUDGET (Alt. E)	1985 RPA (Alt. F)	CURRENT MANAGEMENT (Alt. H)	MARKET (Alt. I)	NON-MARKET (Alt. J)	PREFERRED (Alt. K)
1. Resolve the Wilderness/Non-Wilderness question for all roadless areas on the Humboldt National Forest.	42 roadless areas comprising 1,169,009 acres will be designated for full service level for wilderness. This represents 69% of roadles area acres on the Forest.	12 roadless areas totaling 649,119 acres will be designated for full service level for wilderness. This is 38% of roadless area acreage.	5 roadless areas, with total of 265,611 acres will be designated for wilderness at reduced service level. This is 16% of roadless area acreage. There will be minimal travel reconstruction.	No roadless areas will be designated for wilderness.	5 roadless areas will be designated for wilderness at reduced service level. This amounts to 154,594 acres which is 9% of the roadless area acreage	7 roadless areas, totaling 418,744 acres, will be designated for wilderness at a reduced service level. This is 25% of the Forest roadless area acres.	None of the roadless areas will be designated for wilderness.	All of the roadless areas will be designated as wilderness and will be managed at full service level This will involve 1,692,451 acres.	6 roadless areas with at total of 268,300 acres will be designated for wilderness at full service level. This is 15% of the roadless area acreage.
2. How should the Humboldt National Forest manage wildlife habitat?	Habitat for T&E maintained. Continue to reintroduce peregrine falcons. Habitat for sensitive species and aquatics improved. Big game winter range increase. Riparian habitat enhanced. Hunted and fished MIS increase. 152,50 WFUDs.	Habitat for T&E maintained. Limited reintroduction of peregrine. Habitat for sensitive species and aquatics improved. Big game winter range increase. Hunted MIS increase. 153,300 WFUDs.	Habitat for T&E maintained. Limited reintroduction of peregrine. Some habitat for sensitive species improved. Riparian habitat maintained but not improved. Big game winter range decrease slightly. Hunted MIS decrease slightly. Other MIS main tained. 146,700 WFUDs.	Habitat for T&E maintained. No efforts to reintroduce peregrine falcon. No habitat for sensitive species improved. Aquatic habitat maintained. Riparian habitat will deteriorate somewhat. Big game winter range decrease. Hunted MIS decrease. Fisheries and other MIS maintained. 142,200 WFUDs.	Habitat for T&E maintained. Maximum efforts to reintroduce peregrine falcon. Habitat for sensitive & aquatic species improved. Riparian habitat enhanced. Hunted & fished MIS increase exp. fish. All MIS maintained. 153,500 WFUDs.	Habitat for T&E maintained. Continue to reintroduce peregrine falcons. Habitat for sensitive species maintained. Aquatic habitat maintained. Riparian habitat enhanced. Big game winter range maintained. Hunted & all other MIS maintained. 150,400 WFUDs.	Habitat for T&E maintained. Minimal cooperation with Nevada Dept. of Wildlife. Habitat for sensitive species maintained. Aquatic & riparian habitats maintained. Slight decrease in big game winter range. Hunted MIS decrease slightly. All other MIS maintained. 149,300 WFUDs.	Habitat for T&E maintained. Maximum efforts reintroduce peregrine falcon. Sensitive and aquatic species habitat improved. Nongame & nonconsumptive wildlife emphasized. Aquatic & riparian habitats greatly enhanced. Big game winter range increased. Hunted & fished MIS increase. All habitats increased. 153,400 WFUDs.	Habitat for T&E maintained. Continue to reintroduce pergrine falcon. Aquatic & riparian habitats improved. Habitat for sensitive species improved. Big game winter range improved. Habitat of all MIS improved. 152,721 WFUDs.

TABLE II-20(Cont.)
HOW THE ALTERNATIVES ADDRESS THE PLANNING PROBLEMS

PLANNING PROBLEMS	WILDERNESS/ COMMODITY (Alt. A)	PNV (Alt. C)	CURRENT BUDGET (Alt. D)	CONSTRAINED BUDGET (Alt. E)	1985 RPA (Alt. F)	CURRENT MANAGEMENT (Alt. H)	MARKET (Alt. I)	NON-MARKET (Alt. J)	PREFERRED (Alt. K)
3. How should the Humboldt National Forest manage its minerals management program?	Mineral development will be restricted on 1,233,951 acres. Energy minerals will receive highest priority. 223 applications can be processed annually.	Mineral development restricted on 714,061 acres. 226 cases can be handled annually. Development of gas and oil will temporarily impact visual quality. Seismic exploration will continue and locatable mineral activity and geothermal exploration will increase. All sites will be rehabitated.	Mineral development restricted on 330,553 acres. 201 cases can be processed yearly. Energy minerals will receive highest priority. Development of gas & oil will impact visual quality. Seismic geothermal and locatable mineral activities will increase. All sites will be rehabilitated.	Mineral development restricted on 71,097 acres. 189 cases can be processed annually. Mineral activity may temporarily degrade scenic qualtiy. rehabilitation will not occur on all disturbed sites. Locatable mineral activity and geothermal exploration will increase.	Mineral development restricted on 225,673 acres 295 cases can be processed yearly by 1995. Mineral activity will temporarily impact scenic quality in retention & partial retention areas. All sites will be rehabilitated. Locatable mineral activity, seismic and geothermal exploration will increase. Energy Minerals will receive highest priority.	Mineral development will be restricted on 425,155 acres. 234 cases can be processed annualy. Backlog of pending applications will be reduced.	Mineral development restricted on 71,079 acres, 207 cases can be processed annually by the end of the planning horizon. Oil and gas leases will increase through the year 2000. Locatable mineral activity and geothermal exploration will increase. All sites wil be rehabilitated.	Mineral development restricted on 1,763,530 acres. 227 applications can be handled annually by the year 2030. Energy minerals will receive highest priority.	Mineral development restricted on 339,278 acres. 234 cases can be processed annually by the end of planning horizon. Backlog of pending applications will be reduced.

TABLE II-20(Cont.)
HOW THE ALTERNATIVES ADDRESS THE PLANNING PROBLEMS

PLANNING PROBLEMS	WILDERNESS/ COMMODITY (Alt. A)	PNV (Alt. C)	CURRENT BUDGET (Alt. D)	CONSTRAINED BUDGET (Alt. E)	1985 RPA (Alt. F)	CURRENT MANAGEMENT (Alt. H)	MARKET (Alt. I)	NON-MARKET (Alt. J)	PREFERRED (Alt. K)
4. How should the Humboldt National Forest manage the grazing resources?	AUMs fairly constant. Sensitive plants protected. Wild horses increase to 4530 AUMs. Noxious weed control strengthened. Allotment plans reduce impact on riparian areas. Continue to keep areas closed to grazing closed. Predator control allowed where needed.	AUMs increase to 307,800. Improved range conditions. Sensitive plant species maintained. Wild horse remains same. Noxious weed constol increases. Allotment plans reduce impacts on riparian areas. Continue to keep areas closed to grazing closed. Predator control allowed where needed.	AUMs decline to 289,800. Deteriorated range conditions. Sensitive plants preserved. Wild horses increase. Noxious weed control remains at current level. Riparian areas adversely effected. Continue to keep areas closed to grazing closes. Predator control allowed where needed.	AUMs decline 250,000. Sensitive plants protected. Wild horses increase to 6,778 AUMs. Slow implementation of improvements to riparian areas. Reduced noxious weed control. Continue to keep areas closed to grazing closed. Predator control allowed where needed.	AUMs increase to 303,400. Sensitive plants maintained. Wild horses increase to 3311 AUMs. Noxious weed control increases. Reduced impacts on riparian areas. Areas closed to grazing remain closed. Predator control allowed where needed.	AUMs increase to 303,400. Sensitive plants maintained. Wild horses reach 3816 AUM's. Noxious weed control remains at current level. Fewer impacts on riparian areas. Areas closed to grazing remain closed. Predator control allowed where needed.	AUMs increase to 311,800. Sensitive plants maintained. Noxious weed control increases. Reduced impacts on riparian areas. Continue to keep areas closed to grazing closed. Predator control allowed where needed.	AUMs decrease to 298,700. Sensitive plants protected. Wild horses increase to 4591 AUMs. Noxious weed control strengthened. Reduced impacts upon riparian areas. Areas closed to grazing remain closed. Predator control allowed where needed.	AUMs increase to 316,621. Sensitive plants maintained. Wild horses increase to 1,600 AUMs. Noxious weed control maintained at current level. Reduced impacts on riparian areas. Areas closed to grazing remain closed. predator control allowed where needed.
5. How should the Humboldt National Forest manage off-road vehicles?	Off-road vehicle use will not be permitted on the 1,169,009 acres of roadless areas designated for wilderness. No use will be permitted in the existing 64,667 acre Jarbidge Wilderness Area. ORV use will be permitted on 21,000 acres elsewhere.	12 roadless areas containing 649 119 acres and the 64,667 acre Jarbidge Wilderness will be eliminated from off-road vehicle use along with 21,000 acres elsewhere.	265,611 acres in 5 roadless areas designated for wilderness and the Jarbidge Wilderness Area will be excluded from use by off-road vehicles, along with 21,000 acres elsewhere.	The Jarbidge Wilderness area of 64,667 acres will be closed to off-road vehicle use. Also 59,000 acres elsewhere will be excluded from ORV use.	150,684 acres of roadless areas designated for wilderness and the Jarbidge Wilderness will be excluded from off-road vehicle use, along with 95,000 acres elsewhere.	7 roadless areas and the Jarbidge Wilderness Area will be closed to off-road vehicle use. This amounts to 483,411 acres, along with 21,000 acres elsewhere.	64,667 acres in the Jarbidge Wilderness Area will be closed to to off-road vehicle use along with 95,000 acres elsewhere.	All roadless areas and the Jarbidge Wilderness will be closed to off-road vehicle use. This involves 1,807,395 acres. Also 18,000 acres elsewhere will be closed to ORV use.	6 roadless areas with 268,300 acres and the Jarbidge Wilderness Area of 64,667 acres will be closed to off-road vehicle use, along with 21,000 acres elsewhere.

TABLE II-20(Cont.)

HOW THE ALTERNATIVES ADDRESS THE PLANNING PROBLEMS

PLANNING PROBLEMS	WILDERNESS/ COMMODITY (Alt. A)	PNV (Alt. C)	CURRENT BUDGET (Alt. D)	CONSTRAINED BUDGET (Alt. E)	1985 RPA (Alt. F)	CURRENT MANAGEMENT (Alt. B)	MARKET (Alt. I)	NON-MARKET (Alt. J)	PREFERRED (Alt. K)
6. How should the Humboldt National Forest manage the water resource program?	Water quality and soil productivity increases. Implementation and monitoring of plans occurs ORV use regulated. Inventory of soil, water & geological hazards occurs. Coordination with other agencies increases.	Water quality & soil productivity decreases. Some developed recreation use exceeds carrying capacity. Inventory of soil & water resources. Coordination with other agencies stays at current levels.	Water quality & soil productivity maintained. Inventory of soil & water resources. Current needs for watershed improvements not met. Some implementation and monitoring of projects. Coordination with other agencies remains at current level.	Water quality & soil productivity decreases. No watershed improvements occur. High ORV/O&G development damages occur. No inventory of soils & water. Limited coordination with other agencies.	Water quality & soil productvity increases. Emphasis on Soil & water conservation measures. Monitoring program implemented. Soil, water & geological hazards inventoried. Coordination with other agencies increases.	Water quality & soil productivity increase slightly. Soil & water conservation measures implemented & monitored only on critical projects. Water monitoring in developed recreation sites. Soil resource inventory. Coordination with other agencies remains at current levels.	Water quality & soil productivity decreases. Soil & water resources inventoried. Coordination with other agencies remains at current levels.	Water quality & soil productivity increase. Riparian plans and soil & water measures implemented and monitored. ORV use regulated. Soil, water & geological hazards inventoried. Coordination with other agencies increases.	Water quality & soil productivity increase slightly. Soil & water conservation measures implemented & monitored on critical projects only. Soil resource inventoried. Water quality monitoring continues on recreation sites. Coordination with other agencies remains at current levels.
7. How and where should the Humboldt National Forest provide public access?	Two road rights-of-way acquired each year. Forest land ownership increases.	Four rights-of-way acquired. National Forest ownership increases.	National Forest ownership will increase one land exchange per year. Two rights-of-way acquired each year.	No lands will be acquired either through land exchange or purchase. No rights-of-way will be acquired.	National Forest ownership increases. Four land exchanges per year. Four rights-of-way acquired each year.	National Forest ownership increases. One land exchange per year. Three rights-of-way acquired each year.	National Forest ownership increases. Four land exchange per year. Four rights-of-way acquired each year.	National Forest ownership increases where benefitting watershed, dispersed recreation and wildlife Six land exchanges per year. Four road rights-of-way acquired each year.	National Forest ownership increases. One land exchange per year. Three rights-of-way acquired each year.

TABLE II-20(Cont.)
HOW THE ALTERNATIVES ADDRESS THE PLANNING PROBLEMS

PLANNING PROBLEMS	WILDERNESS/ COMMODITY (Alt. A)	RNV (Alt. C)	CURRENT BUDGET (Alt. D)	CONSTRAINED BUDGET (Alt. E)	1985 RPA (Alt. F)	CURRENT MANAGEMENT (Alt. H)	MARKET (Alt. I)	NON-MARKET (Alt. J)	PREFERRED (Alt. K)
8. How should areas of special interest be manged on the Humboldt National Forest?	5 RNAs nominated. Knowledge & ability to mange cultural resources improves. Wheeler Peak and Ruby Mountain Scenic Areas proposed for Wilderness.	5 RNAs nominated. Knowledge & ability to manage cultural resources is at low level. Wheeler Peak and Ruby Mountain Scenic Areas proposed for wildernesses.	5 RNAs nominated . Knowledge & ability to manage cultural resources is at low level. Same as C.	3 RNAs nominated Knowledge & ability to manage cultural resources is at a low level. Wheeler Peak stays as Scenic Area. Ruby Mountain Scenic Area proposed for wilderness.	5 RNAs nominated. Knowledge & ability to manage cultural resources is at a low level. Same as C.	5 RNAs nominated. Knowledge & ability to manage cultural re sources is at a low level. Same as C	3 RNAs nominated. Knowledge & ability to manage cultural resources at a low level. Wheeler Peak and Ruby Mountains stay as Scenic Areas.	RNA nomination not needed since all RNAs are incorporated in roadless areas recommended for wilderness. knowledge & ability to manage cultural resources improved. Same as C.	5 RNAs nominated. Knowledge & ability to manage cultural resources at a low level. Same as C.
9. How should the Humboldt National Forest manage riparian areas?	Riparian habitat enhanced in grazing mgmt. Riparian mgmt. plans implemented & monitored. ORV use regulated to prevent damage to watersheds.	Water Conservation measures implemented & current needs for watershed satisfied by end planning period. Riparian habitat impacts reduced by grazing.	Riparian habitat maintained but not improved. Current needs for watershed improvements not satisfied but water conservation measures will be implemented and monitored in future projects.	Watershed protection is reduced. Watershed improvement projects will not occur. Damage from ORVs high. Degradation of riparian areas by grazing.	Riparian habitat enhanced in grazing management. Plans for managing riparian areas will be implemented & monitoring will occur.	Water quality improves slightly. Present needs for watershed improvement not met. Water conservation measures implemented & monitored on projects of critical importance.	Riparian habitat will be maintained. Riparian habitat improvement program is limited. Riparian areas impacts reduced by grazing. Water quality decreases although water conservation measures are implemented and water resources	Riparian Area management plans will be implemented and monitored. ORV use regulated to prevent damage. Water quality increases. Riparian habitat enhanced through grazing management plans.	Water quality improves slightly. Present needs for watershed improvement not met. Water conservation measures implemented & monitored on projects of critical importance. Riparian habitat will be enhanced by grazing management and direct improvement

III.

Affected Environment

CHAPTER III
AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the present condition of each Forest resource and the environment affected by implementing any of the alternatives. Future demand for Forest resources, the Forest's ability to supply that demand, and the expected future condition of the resources are summarized. Information in this chapter was drawn primarily from the Analysis of the Management Situation, approved in June 1984. 1/

B. PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL SETTING

The Humboldt National Forest manages mountain lands located in northern and eastern Nevada. National Forest administered lands are located in two major geographic areas:

- The northern portions of the Mountain City and Jarbidge Ranger Districts located within the Snake River Plains.

- The southern portions of the Mountain City and Jarbidge Ranger Districts, and the Ruby Mountains, Ely and the Santa Rosa Ranger Districts are located within the Great Basin.

The Forest boundary encompasses 2,680,440 acres of which 2,527,929 are National Forest administered land. The remaining 152,511 acres are owned by State and local governments or private concerns.

The Forest is divided into five Ranger Districts:

- Mountain City District: Headquartered in Mountain City, Nevada. Administers the Independence, Bull Run and Copper Mountains in Elko County.

- Ruby Mountains District: Headquartered in Wells, Nevada. Administers the East Humboldt and Ruby Mountain Ranges in Elko and northern White Pine Counties.

- Jarbidge District: Headquartered in Buhl, Idaho. Administers the Jarbidge Mountains of Elko County.

- Ely District: Headquartered in Ely, Nevada. Administers the Schell Creek, Snake and White Pine Ranges, as well as, Ward Mountain in White Pine County. The Grant Range and the northern portion of the Quinn Canyon Range are in Nye County. The southern most extremity of the Quinn Canyon Range is located in Lincoln County.

- Santa Rosa District: Headquartered in Winnemucca, Nevada. Administers the Santa Rosa Range in Humboldt County.

1/ The AMS is available for review at Forest Supervisor's Office.

C. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SETTING

1. Zone of Influence

The Humboldt National Forest administers 2.528 million acres of land in 5 counties in the State of Nevada. These counties are: Elko, Humboldt, Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine and constitute the primary zone of influence (ZOI).

Nevada is commonly thought of as a rural state because of its low population density (7.2 people per square mile). However, in 1970 the state ranked 8th in the U.S. in the percentage of population residing in urban areas with 80.9 percent. The percent increased in 1980 to 85.3 percent.

The primary ZOI shows a slightly different picture with population density of 1.0 or less for each of the counties. The population in the ZOI is 37 percent urban.

The counties in the ZOI also have a very high percentage of the acreage administered by the Federal government. Elko County has the lowest percentage of 71.5 percent while Lincoln County has the highest with 96.5 percent.

Most of the settled portions of the ZOI are considered semi-arid and have a climate that produces a relatively short growing season. This combination limits crop production; therefore the major portion of local and state agriculture revolves around livestock and forage production. The arid nature also precludes large scale industrial development.

Historically, this area has had two base industries: mining and agriculture. Through the years, tourism, service, and government have increased in importance. Mining has been associated with "boom or bust". During the past few years, livestock ranching has also experienced this instability.

Although agriculture is a relatively small component of the State's economy, it is still a significant source of income and employment. In 1978, the zone provided 41.3 percent of the State's total agricultural market value. Of this, 64 percent of the value was in livestock products.

Geographic Units of Analysis

Due to the scattered nature of the Forest and the impact that Forest Service actions have on the different counties and communities, the ZOI was divided into four units of analysis: Elko County, Humboldt County, White Pine County, and Lincoln and Nye Counties.

Variables and Social Units of Analysis

The outputs produced by the Humboldt National Forest affect different groups of people. Six different groups were identified for purposes of analyzing the effects that different management alternatives would have on the people in the ZOI. These groups (or social units) are ranchers, miners, recreation users (tourists, hunters and fishermen), Native Americans, fuelwood cutters, and local businessmen.

Past Trends: Population, Employment, Income, and Payments to Counties

The population of the ZOI has increased at an average annual rate of 1.2 percent for the years 1960 to 1970 and 2.1 percent from 1970 to 1980. However, total income has increased at an average annual rate of 3.86 percent for the years 1970 through 1979 (See Table III-1). Historically, the ZOI had two base industries: mining and agriculture. Within the last 30 years, government and tourism have become important. Today, services, government, and trade rank 1, 2, and 3 in terms of employment and personal income; and contribute over 60 percent of the total employment and personal income in the Zone.

Baseline Projections: Population, Employment, Income, and Payments to Counties.

The population is projected to increase by an average annual rate of 2 percent from 1980 to 1990 and 1.9 percent from 1990 to 2000. Total income is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 5.25 percent from 1979 to 1990 and 4.0 percent from 1990 to 2000. (See Table III-2).

Employment in the agricultural sector is expected to follow the past trends of decreasing farm proprietors, slight increase in the wage and salary jobs of farm workers, and a stable number of workers in agricultural services.

The number of people classified as non-farm proprietors increase significantly from 1979 to 1985.

Mining employment has decreased in the past, but is projected to increase in the near future.

Energy exploration should also increase significantly in the next five years.

The construction sector is projected to show slight decreases and the manufacturing sector shows a decline.

The transportation, communications, and public utilities (T.C.P.U.) sector shows a steady increase along with the government sector. The trade and services sectors both expect significant increases to occur in the near future.

It appears that service, government, and trade will remain as the three highest employment sectors. Mining and agriculture will still play significant roles in the structure of local economies.

TABLE III-1
ECONOMIC INDICATORS - PAST TRENDS
(DOLLAR VALUES ARE IN TERMS OF FIRST QUARTER - 1982 DOLLARS)

For: Elko, Humboldt, Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine Counties in Nevada.

	YEAR		
	1960	1970	1980
Population (M Persons) (Census of Population & Housing)	34.332	38.639	47.650

	YEAR			
	1967	1970	1977	1979
Population (M Persons) 3/	37.6	38.4	40.2	43.5
Income (MM$) 1/	280.349	329.935	387.515	466.976
Employment (M Persons) 1/*	22.227	21.885	22.742	24.623
Agriculture	1.840	1.940	1.806	1.796
Non-Farm Proprietors	1.196	1.290	1.522	1.584
Non-Agric. Wage & Salary				
Mining	1.593	1.893	1.650	1.629
Construction	.521	.510	.531	1.111
Manufacturing	.373	.507	.531	.844
T.C.P.U. 4/	.22	.957	1.235	1.320
Trade	2.405	2.619	3.373	3.611
F.I.R.E.	.263	.234	.372	.685
Services	9.189	7.711	6.804	7.214
Government	3.598	3.903	4.347	4.4779
Payments in Lieu of Taxes (M$) 2/	N/A	N/A	1577.89	1190.64
Payments under 25% Fund (M$) 3/	N/A	N/A	N/A	87.78

1/ Source: Bureau of Economic analysis, Regional Economic Information System

2/ Source: Department of Interior (Figures are calculated from all Federal lands in the counties.)

3/ Source: Fiscal and Accounting Management, Intermountain Region, Forest Service.

4/ Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities.

Totals may not add up, due to the nondisclosure of confidential data.

TABLE III-2
ECONOMIC INDICATORS - BASELINE PROJECTIONS
(DOLLAR VALUES ARE IN TERMS OF FIRST QUARTER - 1982 DOLLARS)

For: Elko, Humboldt, Lincoln, Nye and White Pine Counties in Nevada

	YEAR			
	1985	1990	1995	2000
Population (M Persons) 1/	52.74	58.375	64.115	70.425
Income (MM$) 2/	654.352	832.265	1015.164	1238.433
Employment (M Persons) 3/	28.008	30.270		
Agriculture	1.848	1.858		
Non-Farm Proprietors	2.427	2.654		
Non-Agric. Wage & Salary	23.773	25.758		
Mining	1.958	1.923		
Construction	.911	1.004		
Manufacturing	.669	.665		
T.C.P.U. 4/	1.414	1.491		
Trade	.596	.673		
F.I.R.E.	.596	.673		
Services	8.701	9.522		
Government	4.891	5.299		
Payments in Lieu of Taxes (M$)	N/A	N/A		
Payments under 25% Fund (M$)				

1/ Population projections are the average of projections from the University of Nevada, Reno and S.P.C. adjusted by the ratio of 1980 projections to the 1980 census count.

2/ Income projections were developed from Bureau of Economic analysis estimates of the Average Annual Rates of Growth of Real Per Capita Income for the United States.

3/ Nevada's Demographic and Economic Impact Stimulation Model - Model Descriptions and Baseline Projections. Governor's Office of Planning Coordination December 1978.

4/ Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities.

D. RESOURCE ELEMENTS

1. Recreation

In 1983, the Forest recorded 579,000 recreation visitor days despite being a considerable distance from any major population center. Las Vegas, to the south, and Salt Like City, to the east both have major recreation desitnation areas closer than the Humboldt National Forest. The recreational opportunity spectrum (ROS) is highly diversified and includes camping, picnicking, driving for pleasure, helicopter skiing, spelunking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, hiking, hunting, and fishing.

a. Developed Recreation - Public

Presently there are 30 developed camping and picnic sites on the Forest. The distribution of the developed recreation facilities by Ranger District is shown in Table III-3.

TABLE III-3
FACILITIES FOR DEVELOPED RECREATIONAL USE

RANGER DISTRICT	CAMPGROUND	PICNIC	SCENIC/INTERPRETIVE AREA
Mountain City	2	2	-
Ruby Mountains	3	3	1
Jarbidge	4	-	-
Ely	9	6	4
Santa Rosa	1	-	-
TOTAL	19	11	5

Most developed facilities use occurs during the summer months and fall hunting season.

Statistical records for developed recreation use have been kept on the Forest since 1967. Interest in these activities increased after the World War II population boom and the proliferation of the automobile and improved highways. As a result of this increased use, most of the Forest's campgrounds were rehabilitated and expanded during the 1960's. In the twenty years since then, many sites have deteriorated substantially. Deterioration includes loss of vegetation, compaction and loss of topsoil, exposure of tree roots, and streambank breakdown. These impacts along with vandalism degrade the appearance of the picnic areas and campgrounds.

In recent years, construction and rehabilitation of recreational facilities have declined because Forest Service budgets have been reduced and some human resource programs have been eliminated. The outlook for the next several years is for no construction of recreational facilities. Current funding allows little more than minimal operation and maintenance.

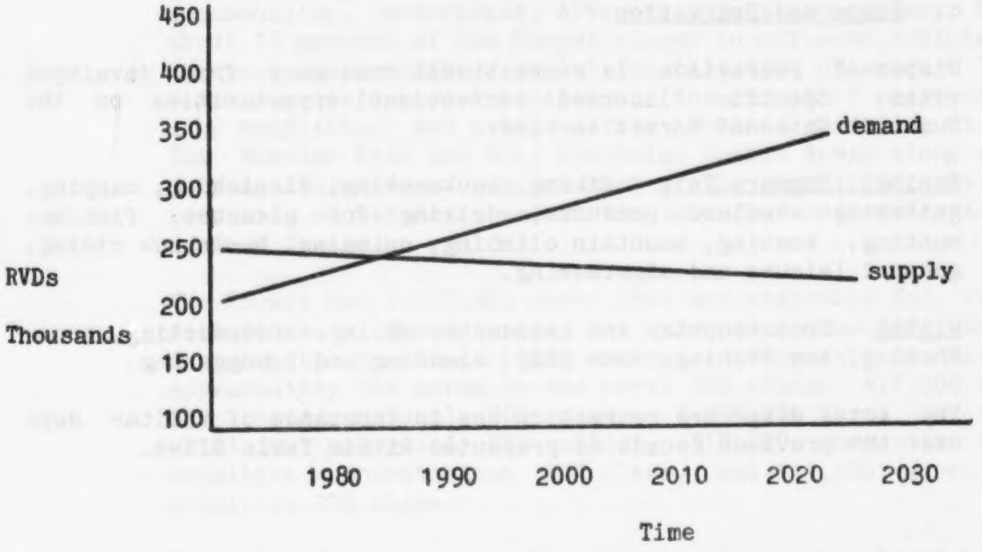
Total recreation capacity on these developed sites is 3,075 persons-at-one-time (PAOTs). Most of these sites experience a 150 day managed-use season from June through October, when maintenance, cleanup and other such services are provided. However, the heavy-use season during which fees are charged is about 100 days. Light use occurs and some services are provided during the remainder of the managed-use season. Presently 15 of the 30 sites are designated as fee areas. In 1983, returns to the treasury from these fees were $22,959.

Opportunities for improving developed recreation for the public include:

- developing vandal-resistant facilities.
- rehabilitating substandard sites.
- emphasizing development of new campgrounds and picnic areas.

More intensive use in the future will result in further overcrowding, additional site deterioration, greater wear on facilities, and increasing social problems such as vandalism. Overall state-wide population growth coupled with increased mineral development will increase the demand for developed recreation. Demand for developed sites is expected to exceed supply by 1990. Figure III-1.

FIGURE III-1
THE PROJECTED DEVELOPED RECREATION SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR RVD'S ON THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST



Eventually, some campgrounds will be closed for health and safety reasons while the heavier used areas will be operated for a shorter season. This reduction in service will occur as demand for use of the sites increases, mainly as a result of increased populations due to increased minerals and electrical power production. The proposed White Pine and Winecup power projects are examples.

b. Developed Recreation - Private

This type of recreation includes developed sites on the National Forest which are operated under permit for profit or private use. Recreation special uses presently occurring on the Humboldt National Forest include operation of camping sites for large groups run by organizations such as the Boy Scouts and outfitter guides, and summer homes. The Forest grants "term permits" (specified for a particular period of time) or "annual permits" (reevaluated yearly) for these uses. Generally, term permits are issued for uses which require a large capital investment while annual permits are granted for uses that do not require substantial investment. Summer home use on the Forest will remain at a fixed level for the immediate future. No new homesites will be established and no additional permits will be issued.

Periodically, individuals may put forth efforts to establish a ski area on the Forest. Creation of such an area would increase the overall proportion of private sector recreation but would increase total recreation use only slightly.

The expected future condition of developed recreation (private) is that use will remain stable or increase slightly for a few years and then remain relatively fixed. Most existing developed sites are operating at a reduced service management level. Only minor maintenance and rehabilitation efforts are being conducted.

c. Dispersed Recreation

Dispersed recreation is recreational uses away from developed sites. Specific dispersed recreational opportunities on the Humboldt National Forest include:

Spring, Summer, Fall - Hiking, backpacking, picnicking, camping, gathering woodland products, driving for pleasure, fishing, hunting, boating, mountain climbing, swimming, horseback riding, general leisure and sightseeing.

Winter - Cross-country and helicopter skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, ice fishing, snow play, sledding and tobogganing.

The total dispersed recreation use in thousands of visitor days over the previous decade is presented within Table III-4.

TABLE III-4
THE DISPERSED RECREATION RVDS FOR THE PREVIOUS DECADE ON THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST
(Annual Units Are In MRVDs)

YEAR	MRVDs
1970	332
1971	392
1972	406
1973	329
1974	330
1975	281
1976	307
1977	295
1978	328
1979	322
1980	347

Actual dispersed use and its impacts are difficult to measure and manage.

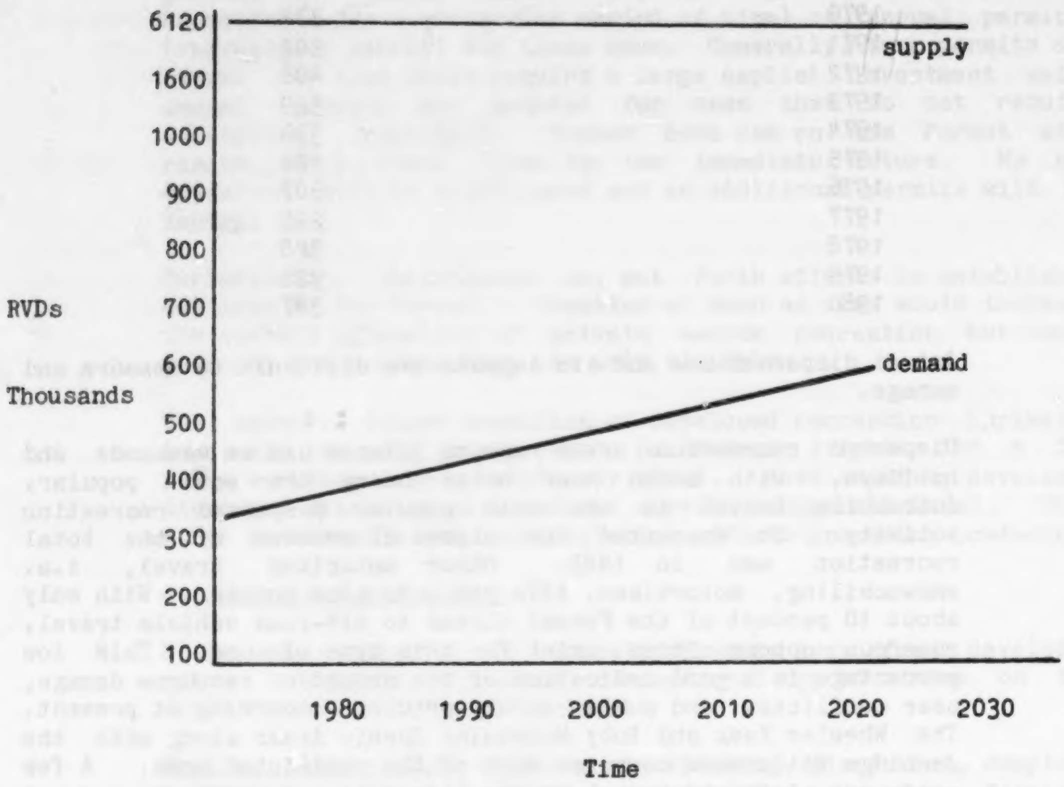
Dispersed recreation areas receive intense use on weekends and holidays, with areas near water being the most popular. Automobile travel is the most popular dispersed recreation activity. It accounted for almost 20 percent of the total recreation use in 1983. Other motorized travel, i.e. snowmobiling, motorbikes, ATVs etc., is also popular. With only about 10 percent of the Forest closed to off-road vehicle travel, numerous opportunities exist for this type of use. This low percentage is a good indication of the amount of resource damage, user conflicts, and public safety problems occurring at present. The Wheeler Peak and Ruby Mountains Scenic Areas along with the Jarbidge Wilderness comprise most of the restricted area. A few roads are closed to travel in the late fall and spring to prevent roadbed damage.

The Forest has 2,527,929 acres that are available for recreation activities. These areas are grouped into five Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classes. Currently the Forest has approxmately 160 acres in the rural ROS class; 417,000 acres in the roaded natural ROS class; 1,090,000 acres in the semi primitive motorized ROS class; 910,000 acres in the semi primitive non-motorized ROS class, and 111,300 acres in the primitive ROS class.

Capacity for dispersed recreation is directly related to ease of access and facilities. The easier the access and the more available the facilities the more opportunity for dispersed recreation.

The supply and demand relationship for dispersed recreation RVDs is displayed in Figure III-2.

FIGURE III-2
THE PROJECTED SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR
DISPERSED RECREATION RVDs ON THE
HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST



Demand for all types of dispersed recreation will increase throughout the planning horizon. It is not anticipated within this planning period that the demand of dispersed recreation RVDs will exceed the supply.

Current patterns of use are expected to continue unless the economy changes drastically or certain technical conditons change unexpectedly. Currently, management of dispersed recreation is being conducted at a reduced service level. Maintenance and patrolling of most dispersed sites is done in conjunction with other field activities. Only a minimum amount of trail maintenance work occurs on the Forest annually. Monitoring activities to ensure compliance with the existing Travel Plan are minimal, but adequate to monitor the effectiveness of the plan and possible areas of conflict.

Resource deterioration such as soil and vegetation loss is expected to continue. Increased use of dispersed recreational areas for overflow camping and greater crowding will increase user's dissatisfaction. Greatest impacts will be felt in areas adjacent to water (riparian areas).

Anticipated mineral development will add miles to the Forest road system. Some of the roads will be closed through reclamation projects, however, others will remain open for public use. Travel on the new roads will increase through time. Impromptu parking along the road in absence of trail head facilities will create resource problems. Off-road use and inadequately designed roads will impact the soil and water resource.

Resource damage and user conflicts on dispersed area sites are expected to increase in the future. The quality of the recreation experience will decline.

Opportunities for improving the dispersed recreation experience and reducing conflicts between user groups include:

- Developing a program for trailhead construction.
- Encouraging use at remote sites and discouraging use of heavily used sites.
- Providing adequate sanitation for both summer and winter recreation.
- Developing a program for managing the anticipated dispersed and overflow camping areas.

d. Trails

There are 994.3 miles of inventoried trails on the Forest. Five miles of trail have been constructed on the Forest since 1977. Most trail use is in the summer, but winter use is increasing.

Most of the trail system has deteriorated badly due to the lack of maintenance. Many of the trails are now almost non-existent and in some cases, present hazards to the users. Maintenence efforts are directed at correcting these hazards but are seldom enough to permanently correct the problem. Conflicts between types of trail users will increase in number and intensity. The ability of the trail system to serve the public will decline while demand continues to increase.

In 1979, two trails on the Forest were established as National Recreation Trails (NRT) under the National Trails System Act. The Ruby Crest NRT on the Ruby Mountain District is 40 miles long; the Wheeler Peak NRT on the Ely District is 10 miles long.

Under the Forest travel management program, certain sensitive and erosive areas and trails are closed to motorized off-road vehicles (ORVs) or use is restricted. Use of motor vehicles is prohibited in the Jarbidge Wilderness Area and restricted in the Wheeler Peak and Ruby Mountain Scenic Areas.

The trail system on the Humboldt National Forest could be increased by either constructing new trails or expanding the capacity of the existing trails. Trail-user's experience could be improved by providing better trailhead facilities, improved maintenance, trail signs, trail information, and interpretive facilities.

e. Scenic and Special Attraction Areas

1. Lehman Cave - This national monument, located on the Snake Division, is administered by the National Park Service. Tours are taken daily through one of the largest limestone solution caves in the west. The Forest Service and the Park Service jointly operate a visitor's center in conjunction with the national monument. Numerous other caves occur on the Ely Ranger District.

2. Wheeler Peak Scenic Area - This 28,000 acre scenic area recognizes the exceptional scenic, botanical and geological attractions of the Snake Range. Wheeler Peak, dominating the area, rises in elevation to 13,063 feet making it the second highest point within Nevada. There are two interpretive nature trails within the scenic area. The scenic area also contains large continuous stands of bristlecone pine. These trees are considered to be the oldest living trees in the world, some approaching 5,000 years of age.

3. Lamoille Canyon - This area is located 25 miles southeast of Elko in the Ruby Mountains. A paved road extends 12 miles from the valley floor up Lamoille Canyon to an elevation of 9,000 feet. It provides spectacular views of the rugged mountain peaks and glaciated canyons. Three pull-outs with interpretive signs are found along the road. Lamoille Canyon is included within the 40,000 acre Ruby Mountain Scenic Area. The scenic area extends along the crest of the Ruby Mountains from Verdi Lake south to Tipton Peak. The area is characterized by towering peaks and beautiful, crystal-clear alpine lakes from Verdi Lake south to Tipton Peak.

f. Wild and Scenic Rivers

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, P.L. 90-542, October 2, 1968 section 5(a) states "..the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall make specific studies and investigations to determine which additional wild, scenic and recreation river areas within the United States shall be evaluated in planning reports.." Potential Wild and Scenic Rivers were identified in 1970 and again in 1980. The Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service of the Department of Interior conducted the later inventory including numerous subsequent additions and deletions.

The latest inventory of potential Wild and Scenic Rivers contains three streams with portions on the Humboldt National Forest. These streams are the North Fork Little Humboldt River, Mary's River and West Fork Jarbidge River. The Forest, in the development of its Land Management Plan, made evaluations of the Wild and Scenic River potential of these rivers in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management. The studies found none of these rivers qualify for further study for potential designation as part of the Wild and Scenic River System. The evaluation reports for the rivers are filed with the planning records at the Forest Supervisor's Office.

g. Visual Resources

The Humboldt National Forest is characterized by outstanding scenery with certain areas specifically preserved for enjoyment by Forest users. Elsewhere visual quality on the Forest has suffered from such activities as road building, mining, and vegetative manipulation projects. A Visual Management Program is now used in all resource management pojects to maintain and enhance the visual resource.

Demands for and concerns about scenic quality are increasing. Visual quality for Forest lands viewed from recreation sites and major travelways will become increasingly important. Visual resource management techniques will continue to be applied to all projects in the future, with specific emphasis on those areas identified by the Forest Plan as high in scenic quality or recreation visitor use.

h. Cultural Resources

Currently, the Forest has 625 recorded cultural resource properties. There may be 57,000 sites not yet inventoried. There are no sites currently on the National Register although the Mahoney Ranger Station on the Jarbidge District is in the process of nomination. Cultural resources specialist have conducted 126 surveys on an area of 20,559 acres. Allowing for about 20 percent of inaccessible land, some 2,000,490 acres remain to be inventoried.

The historical sites include small artifact assemblages, dumps, foundations, and standing structures primarily related to mining and ranching settlements. The prehistoric sites include isolated artifacts, lithic scatters, quarries, seasonal base camps, and occupied sites.

The Humboldt National Forest lies within the ethnographic territories of the Paiute and Shoshone Indian Tribes. Because of the nature and distribution of National Forest System administered lands, it is necessary to consider adjacent areas not necessarily within Forest boundaries, such as valleys between mountain ranges. The historical period is primarily characterized by transportation routes, early exploration and settlement, ranching and mining.

The Forest completed a preliminary draft cultural resources overview in 1983 as part of the Forest planning process. Completion of a comprehensive cultural resource overview is still necessary. Work is being targeted for completion of a Forest-wide inventory of cultural resources. If current management direction for cultural resources is followed, the Forest will continue to meet minimum requirements of historic preservation laws on projects having the potential to damage significant sites.

The Forest has two developed sites for interpreting cultural resources. A plan needs to be developed for the interpretation, protection, and maintenance of known significant sites.

Currently, technical expertise for the cultural resource management program is obtained through the Shared Services position on the Toiyabe National Forest. Cultural resource project records and site files are maintained at the Toiyabe National Forest Supervisor's Office in Sparks, Nevada, and in the Regional Data Base at Fort Collins, Colorado.

2. WILDERNESS

Currently, the 64,667 acre Jarbidge Wilderness is the only designated wilderness on the Forest and in the State of Nevada. The RARE II evaluation conducted in 1978-79 recommended that four Forest roadless areas be recommended for wilderness, while three areas were recommended for further study. The acres and names are shown below:

Areas Recommended for Wilderness		Acres
Jarbidge		28,000
Ruby Mountains		64,519
Grant		98,904
Quinn		88,616
	Total	280,039

Areas Recommended for Further Study		Acres
Mount Moriah		97,205
Wheeler Peak		61,869
Highland Ridge		76,017
	Total	235,091

In October of 1982, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court decision against the Federal government in the State of California vs. Block lawsuit. This decision found major deficiencies in the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) Final Environmental Statement.

On February 1, 1983, the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture announced that National Forest Roadless Areas studied during RARE II will be subjected to reevaluation due to the Court's decision. In addition, those roadless areas studied during unit planning are also to be included in the reevaluation. Additional wilderness areas will be proposed in various alternatives of the Forest FEIS.

Refer to Appendix C of this document for a list of the roadless areas and their respective acres that will be evaluated by the Humboldt National Forest during the planning process.

During the public involvement phase of the reevaluation, roadless areas were proposed for modification when on-going or completed activities had eliminated the wilderness qualities or characteristics on the activity areas. In 4 of 53 cases, the roadless areas were less than 5,000 acres and were no longer of sufficient size to be considered for wilderness. The remaining 49 roadless areas contain approximately 1,742,728 (gross) acres.

The existing Jarbidge Wilderness is located in the northern part of Nevada near the Idaho-Nevada state line. Visitor use in the Jarbidge Wilderness has been relatively light in the past. Use has increased from 4,700 RVDs in 1970 to 12,600 RVDs in 1980. The majority of use occurs from June 15 through October 31. The capacity of the wilderness area has not been determined. The Jarbidge Wilderness Management Plan, completed in 1976, lays the ground work for determining the capacity of the area, as well as necessary management to improve the recreational experiences of the wilderness users. A copy of the wilderness management plan is included within the planning process records on file at the Forest Supervisor's Office.

3. WILDLIFE AND FISH

The Humboldt National Forest has over 325 species of fish and wildlife. These are predominatly birds (210 species) and mammals (78 species). Twenty-five are designated gamebirds (including waterfowl) and six are big game species.

There are three Federally listed wildlife species under the Endangered Species Act, on the Forest. The bald eagle and peregrine falcon are listed as endangered and the Lahontan cutthroat trout is listed as threatened. Both the eagle and the falcon are winter visitors to the Forest. Suitable habitat exists on the Forest for peregrine falcons. A cooperative effort commenced in 1984 involving the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Bureau of Land Management, to reestablish peregrine falcons in Ruby Valley. A number of hack sites used during the reestablishment phase will be located on Forest Service administered lands.

The Lahontan cutthroat trout has been identified in 32 streams. To date, 50 percent of the Lahontan's potential habitat has had General Aquatic Wildlife Survey data collected. A recovery plan has been completed for the Lahontan cutthroat trout and is part of the process records on file at the Forest Supervisor's office.

The Forest has twenty-three sensitive plant species. A listing of the plant species, as well as, a description of each can be found within the process records.

Managment Indicator Species (MIS)

National Forest Management Act regulations have directed the National Forests to identify MIS. One purpose of this designation is to manage for the needs of one species that is "representative" of a given habitat situation and thereby manage for the habitat needs of numerous other species. A second purpose of this designation is to recognize the habitat requirements of species that need special protection. Threatened, endangered and sensitive species, economically or socially important species, species that have special habitat needs, and other species are considered for this MIS designation.

Mule deer were selected as an MIS for the following reasons:

1. They are an economically and socially important species.

2. They can be readily monitored. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) does semi-annual herd composition counts to determine buck, doe, fawn ratios and fawn and adult ratios; calculate overwinter fawn loss, develop annual population estimates and document winter and spring distribution. The Forest Service does range surveys to determine forage production, utilization, conditon and trend within mule deer habitat.

3. Mule deer occupy all of the analysis areas that have been delineated for the Forest Plan. They also occupy or use all of the vegetative types on the Forest.

4. If the habitat requirements for mule deer are met on each analysis area, horizontal and vertical habitat diversity will be provided for other wildlife species.

5. They are barometers to the conditon and trend of many of the Forest's non-timbered areas.

Sage grouse were selected as an MIS for the following reasons:

1. They are an economically and socially important species.

2. They are a readily monitored species.

3. They are totally dependent upon the sagebrush-grass, meadow and riparian ecosystems and are a barometer to their condition and trend.

4. They occur on the majority of the analysis areas.

5. If the habitat requirements for sage grouse are met, other wildlife species such as the sage thrasher, sage sparrow, Brewer's sparrow and the common crow and raven will be provided for.

The goshawk was selected as an MIS for the following reasons:

1. They are a socially important species.
2. They occur in all the Ranger Districts on the Forest.
3. NDOW monitors their population.
4. They are a barometer to the condition and trend of the old growth cottonwood-aspen and fir stands found in riparian areas.
5. If the habitat requirements for the goshawk are met on each Division, the horizontal and vertical habitat diversity will be provided for such species as the woodpeckers, secondary cavity nesting species and other hawks and owls.

Trout were selected as an MIS for the following reasons:

1. They are an economically and socially important species.
2. Trout as a group consist of seven species of fish. The Lahontan cutthroat trout is presently classed as threatened and the Bonneville cutthroat trout is listed as a sensitive species by the Forest and the State of Nevada.
3. Trout populations and their habitats are readily monitored.
4. They occur on most of the analysis areas that have been delineated for the Forest Plan.
5. They are a barometer to water quality and to the condition and trend of riparian zones.
6. If habitat requirements for trout are adequately met on each stream, river, lake or reservoir, many of the 244 wildlife and fish species dependent in whole or part upon riparian areas will be provided for.

Table III-5 displays the different population levels for MIS on the Forest. The trout information within the table includes Lahontan cutthroat trout.

TABLE III-5
THE VARIOUS POPULATION LEVELS FOR MIS ON THE
HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

POPULATION LEVELS

SPECIES	MINIMUM VIABLE	CURRENT	MAXIMUM POTENTIAL
Mule Deer	11,247	53,000	88,200
Sage Grouse	3,900	36,300	40,000
Goshawk	500 Pairs	500 Pairs	1,000 Pairs
Trout	2,470 Lbs. (100 fish/mile)	45,900 Lbs.	125,000 Lbs.

As can be seen by referencing Table III-5, the current and minimum viable population levels are the same for goshawk. NDOW believes that current levels equal minimum viable populations for goshawks.

Ten vegetative communities (see Table III-6) used by terrestrial wildlife species extend from the salt desert shrub to the high elevation areas. These vegetative communities are used either singly or in combination depending upon the needs of each species.

TABLE III-6
THE VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES FOUND ON THE
HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

TYPE	ACRES	%
1. Grassland	107,067	4 % *
2. Meadow	5,071	1 %
3. Perennial Forb	12,088	1 %
4L. Low Sagebrush	241,582	10 %
4T. Tall Sagebrush	711,481	28 %
5. Mountain Brush	264,866	10 %
6. Conifer	41,817	2 %
7. Nonrange Timber-Brush	221,050	9 %
8. Barren	130,500	5 %
9. Pinyon-Juniper	624,406	25 %
10. Decidous Trees (Aspen)	125,056	5 %

* Percent of total acres.

Diversity of vegetation is generally good with better diversity for wildlife occurring in the northern half of the Forest compared to the southern half. Representative diversities are as follows: northern half with 36 percent grass, 14 percent forb, and 50 percent shrub; southern half with 20 percent grass, 6 percent forb and 74 percent shrub. Plant diversity on the southern half is not expected to change significantly under current management; however, diversity on the northern half is expected to take a downward trend as a more grass-dominated condition is expected to occur as a result of current management.

The current user days generated by the wildlife and fish resource is 171,042 days per year. Since Nevada has a controlled system of big game hunting, it is difficult to project user days into the future. During the past four years the user days have increased about 20,000 annually. This trend is expected to continue through 1990 then level off.

The Forest has a small budget for wildlife and fish habitat improvements. Currently, the Forest is accomplishing 600 acres of wildlife habitat improvement and 6 fish and/or wildlife structures per year. This trend is also expected to continue, provided funding remains consistent with present levels. The Forest is cooperating with the Nevada Department of Wildlife in achieving that Department's goals and objectives for the selected Management Indicator Species. Their broad goals and objectives are to maintain or improve habitats for all wildlife species. The Nevada Department of Wildlife has completed a Wildlife Policy Plan for the State of Nevada. The goals and strategies presented within the policy plan are reflected within the FEIS/Plan.

4. RANGE

Approximately, 1,332,610 acres (53 percent of the Forest) are suitable for livestock grazing. The remaining acreage (1,195,319) is steep hillsides, shallow soil areas, rock outcrops etc. that are not suitable for long term livestock grazing. Approximately 33,000 acres of the remaining acreage are unavailable for livestock grazing. Acres unavailable for livestock grazing occur in developed campgrounds, municipal watersheds and administrative sites.

Grazing management is a cooperative effort between the Forest Service and the grazing permittees. The Forest issues grazing permits that specify the type and number of livestock and the season of use. Allotment management plans outline the use and development of each allotment on a long term basis; operating plans outline annual direction. Allotments are inspected by the Forest Service for use, condition, and compliance with grazing permits, the Allotment Management Plan, and the Annual Operating Plan. The permittee is responsible for herding, salting and doctoring his livestock and for maintaining improvements on his allotment.

Range condition classification for the suitable range indicates the following:

TOTAL ACRES	PERCENT OF SUITABLE ACRES	CONDITION/CLASS
217,747	16	Good
615,150	47	Fair
499,713	37	Poor

The trend for good condition ranges is generally static, while the trend is usually upward on fair and poor condition ranges.

The production of forage on the suitable range varies considerably, with some wet meadows producing over 2,000 pounds (dry weight) of forage/acre/year, while some low elevation sagebrush types produce only 100-200 pounds of forage/acre/year. Production varies considerably from year to year depending primarily on the amount and timing of percipitation received. This situation will not change and must be considered in determining livestock stocking rates on this Forest. It must also be remembered that much of the rangeland on the Forest is semi-arid with much of it bordering the northern desert and salt desert shrub zones. Therefore, the production per acre on much of it is not high even though its ecological range condition may be good.

Approximately 90 percent of the 199 grazing allotments have approved and implemented management plans at the present time. All of the allotments on the Forest will have approved management plans by 1988. There may have to be some downward adjustments in stocking levels on some of the remaining allotments.

The current management direction for the range resource is to develop upward trends where the range is in less than good ecological condition. Also, emphasis is placed on obtaining the management on each allotment as prescribed in the Allotment Management Plan to coordinate forage production with other multiple use values. This includes proper use of the forage resource. Emphasis is also placed on the proper maintenance of range fences and water developments so that an effective management system can be continued.

To date, approximately 71,328 acres of formerly depleted rangeland have been seeded on the Forest. The seedings have been successful and provide a considerable amount of the forage consumed by livestock and big game animals. They have also relieved grazing pressure on adjacent rangelands thus allowing the native range to improve.

Fifteen hundred miles of fence have been constructed within allotments so that the livestock can be controlled and managed.

The Forest Service and permittees have constructed 1,300 water developments consisting of ponds and troughs to water the livestock and wildlife on ranges without adequate water. Also, over 139 miles of pipelines have been installed to carry water to formerly dry ranges. These water developments also provide water to wildlife.

Through the use of Range Betterment Funds, the Forest will continue to treat approximately 2,000 acres annually by chaining, herbicide treatment or prescribed burning. Management fences and water developments will be installed to further develop rangelands.

The ranching industry consists of numerous livestock operations largely dependent on Federal range. There are 18 sheep permittees grazing 59,089 sheep on the Forest for an average of 3,300 sheep per operation; however, the smallest operation runs 40 head of rams on one allotment while the largest has approximately 10,000 head on 10 allotments. There have been numerous requests to change the kind of livestock from sheep to cattle on many Forest allotments. This is due to management problems such as losses to predators, labor costs, lack of qualified herders, and depressed lamb prices. This change is generally not beneficial to the rangeland resource as cattle can't use the steeper ridges and slopes but favor the canyon bottoms and riparian areas.

An analysis of the cattle operations shows that 199 permittees graze 53,688 head of cattle on the Forest for an average of 270 head per operation. The smallest operation runs 6 head while the largest has a special limit of 2,720. There are 9 permittees who have established special limits permitting a combined total of 15,208 for an average of 1690 head each. The upper limit for the Forest has been established at 1,000 head of cattle or 12,000 sheep.

It has been determined that the Forest can provide approximately 300,000 - 310,000 AUMs use in most years, in coordination with other uses of the Forest. Therefore, this figure is the current management objective for the range resource.

The Forest provides most of its grazing opportunities during the standard grazing season of June 1 to September 30. However, there is some fall and spring grazing (April 1) on the Mountain City Ranger District, and some winter grazing for sheep on the Ely Ranger District.

The demand for permits to graze cattle will remain high and exceed available supply. Demand for sheep permits may decline further but over the long term they should stabilize and may eventually increase.

Allotment management plans provide direction to help reverse any downward trends in range condition. Fences, water developments, and other improvements are needed on some allotments to encourage livestock use of less accessible range.

Plant composition on some areas has changed noticeably. Encroachment by Utah juniper and single-leaf pinyon pine into grass-shrub sites on areas of the Ely and Ruby Mountains Districts has seriously decreased both forage and ground cover. Also evident on some areas of the Forest is the invasion of cheat grass following fire. Riparian communities sustain some of the heaviest grazing pressure in the narrow canyons with steep side slopes. Control of sagebrush is required on many areas to sustain forage production for livestock.

In addition to cattle and sheep grazing, there are 5 wild horse territories (W.H.T.). Wild horses migrate between Forest and BLM administered lands. A joint FS/BLM management plan has been approved for management of horses on the Monte Cristo W.H.T. with numbers to be maintained in the 72-96 head range. Management plans have also been completed on the Murphy Wash and Cherry Springs territories. Plans are yet to be prepared on the Quinn and Mt. Moriah W.H.T. The horses will be managed under the Wild horse and Burro Act (PL92-195) of December 15, 1971.

TERRITORY	MGMT PLAN COMPLETION	INVENTORY NUMBER	DESIRED STOCKING *2
		1981 Est.	
Monte Cristo	1977	130 *1	72-96 head
Quinn	1986	10	10
Mt. Moriah	1988	0	0
Murphy Wash	1978	0	0
Cherry Springs	1977	38	42-68 head

*1 Joint BLM/FS territory - 268 head were observed by BLM in 1981 from a helicopter survey with an estimated 130 head on the Forest.

*2 Desired stocking according to management plan.

There have been no sightings since 1977 on the Quinn, Mt. Moriah or Murphy Wash Territories. However, surveys of droppings on the Quinn territory indicate an estimated 10 horses inhabit the area.

Range conditions on most of the wild horse territories have improved since management and control were initiated. The Monte Cristo territory has not improved due to the number of horses that occupy the area. A capture program was undertaken in 1979. Horse numbers rebounded so quickly that control was necessary again in 1983.

There is a national demand for wild horses mostly from the scenic and historical aspect. However, most people recognize the need to keep wild horse numbers within the limits prescribed by the management plans.

Noxious weeds known to grow on the Forest are listed on page IV-18. All of the noxious weeds listed pose a real threat to the productivity of the land.

The Forest treats approximately 20-100 acres of noxious weeds per year mostly along roadsides. Many ranchers in cooperation with their respective counties treat noxious weeds on private lands. However, there are serious problems in many of the areas adjacent to the Forest boundary where private landowners may not be aware of the threat or may not be financially able to treat large acreages. Efforts to control noxious weeds should have a priority even during austere budgeting.

The Forest supports APHIS' predator control program. The Forest Service makes recommendations to APHIS for each allotment as to the need for control, methods to be used, and special precautions needed. The Forest Service evaluates the environmental effects of the predator control program. The current control program has consisted of trapping and shooting of coyotes from aircraft during the winter. Aerial shooting is used in conjunction with summer trapping in areas where livestock losses to predation are extremely high and summer control alone has not been effective. Control efforts are directed to problem areas as outlined in the Annual Operating Plan prepared by the Forest and APHIS. In areas where mountain lions are the target species, control efforts are directed at the offending animal. Losses of livestock to predators varies from year to year.

5. TIMBER

There are about 560,000 acres of unreserved commercial forest land on the Forest. This is composed primarily of 530,000 acres of commercial pinyon-juniper, located in the southern end of the Ruby Mountain Ranger District and the lower slopes of the Ely Ranger District. The other 30,000 acres are composed of isolated stands of Engelman spruce, subalpine fir and limber pine at higher elevations of the Snake and Schell Division of the Ely Ranger District. Because of limited access, low volumes per acre, scattered stands, and the absence of milling or processing facilities in the area, all timber is classed as unsuitable for industrial wood production.

The public's consumptive use of wood products from the Humboldt National Forest is generally miscellaneous Forest products consisting of fuelwood, Christmas trees, pinenuts, post and poles. Demand for fuelwood, in comparison to other wood products has seen the largest increase in recent years. Demand is greater than supply in some areas. However, it is estimated that only a small percentage of the Forest's potential sustained yield pinyon-juniper fuelwood capacity is currently being utilized. About 4,000 cords of fuelwood are harvested annually from July through October. Approximately 600 posts are cut from juniper stands on the Forest each year generally for local use by ranchers. A slight rising demand trend is forecast.

Approximately 2,000 Christmas trees are harvested annually during November and December with pinyon pine the dominant species harvested. The limited timber stand improvement program releases Christmas trees for harvest later.

The supply of pinenuts depends on the pinyon pine cone crop which can vary from a few thousand pounds to a bumper crop of 100,000 pounds or more per year. Bumper crops usually occur every 3-5 years. Commercial demand for this product exceeds supply despite production levels achieved.

Demand for the Humboldt's miscellaneous forset products is good particularly for the pinyon-juniper type. However, the management potential of this cover type is, for the most part, yet unknown. An inventory is needed to identify management needs and opportunities and productivity levels, which in turn, are needed to identify acceptable harvest levels.

Although public use of miscellaneous wood products should increase in the future, this expected use will be moderated by the increasing costs associated with acquiring these products.

6. WATER

The Humboldt National Forest manages mountain watersheds to produce clean water while providing for the production of woodland products, recreation, grazing, and wildlife.

The Forest has three municipal watersheds: West Ward, supplying the towns of Ruth and Kimberly; Duck Creek, supplying the town of McGill; and Bear Creek, supplying the town of Jarbidge. The Bear Creek watershed is closed to grazing, camping and ORV use.

Murray Canyon is managed as a special watershed for flood protection for the town of Ely.

The Forest yields approximately 1,357 million acre-feet of water. Yield varies with annual precipitation and is dependent on the annual snowpack. Spring snowmelt contributes the majority of runoff volume.

Opportunities for water yield augmentation on a large scale are extremely limited. Vegetative manipulations in sagebrush-grass types may produce small, localized effects; however, these would probably be undetectable downstream.

The present demand for water exceeds the available supply. Part of the imbalance between supply and demand is due to the timing of runoff. The demand for storage and transmission facilities to better use spring runoff will increase.

There are no records of any state water quality standards violations of water from the Forest. The state considers the Forest's water to be of class A quality suitable for irrigation and stockwatering. Sediment production is an identified but unquantified problem in many drainages.

It is Forest Service policy to file, in the name of the United States, for all water rights needed to support the proper use and management of National Forest administered lands. The Forest has and will maintain an active program in identifying, quantifying and filing for the necessary water. Much of the water produced by the Forest is used for downstream irrigation. Water rights of others developed on Forest land and used downstream are recognized and respected. Water rights and Federal water use will continue to be controversial. The schedule of adjudications and the filing backlog will take several years to complete.

Riparian areas and wetlands make up a small percentage of the Humboldt's total acreage. The relative value of these small scattered riparian areas far exceeds that of the surrounding lands. Better management has resulted in maintained or improved riparian condition in many areas. However, approximately, 25 percent of these areas remains in poor condition. Public demand for better management of riparian areas becomes more apparent each year.

7. MINERALS

a. Mineral Land Suitability

(1) Availability

The Humboldt National Forest is almost entirely open to mineral entry and leasing. The following table lists the restrictions.

TABLE III-7
LANDS OPEN AND WITHDRAWN TO MINERAL ACTIVITIES ON THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

DISTRICT	TOTAL ACREAGE	WITHDRAWN FROM MINING	WITHDRAWN FROM LEASING	WILDERNESS ACRES WITHDRAWN FROM MINERAL ENTRY	TOTAL LANDS OPEN TO MINING AND LEASING
D-1 Mountain City	479,215	1,715	2	-	477,498
D-2 Ruby Mountains	361,233	1,289	240	-	359,704
D-3 Jarbidge	240,159	1,352	-	64,667	238,807
D-4 Ely	1,178,829	1,613	-	-	1,177,216
D-5 Santa Rosa	268,493	200	-	-	268,293
TOTAL	2,527,929	6,169	242	64,667	2,456,850

From the figures presented in Table III-7, there are 71,079 acres on the Forest withdrawn from mineral entry. This leaves 2,456,850 acres or 97.2 percent of the Forest open to mineral entry. There are 64,910 acres, closed to leasing. This includes the Jarbidge Wilderness (64,667 acres) and 242 other acres. This leaves 97.4 percent of the Forest open to leasing.

(2) Capability

Capability is determined by industry which responds to trends in the market place. Present technology and economics preclude extraction of some known mineral deposits. Mineral uses and needs are determined by (1) new and/or existing technologies and (2) demand for certain minerals within the market place. The difficulty in predicting where new mineral deposits may be found leads to the conclusion that areas capable of mineral or energy exploration and development may someday include the entire Forest.

(3) Suitability

Suitability of lands for mineral activities on the Forest has not generally been a problem. In most areas, protective stipulations are added to operating plans to provide for environmental protection. Areas which are in RARE II further planning areas or recommended for wilderness are having the leasing process delayed pending completion of environmental assessments. These areas and a number of other areas on the Forest have "No Leasing" or "No Surface Occupancy" restrictions attached. Refer to Table III-8 for a list of areas which have leasing restrictions. The lease stipulations are explained within Appendix H.

TABLE III-8
AREAS ON THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST
WITH MINERAL LEASING RESTRICTIONS

AREA	RESTRICTIONS	ACRES
Mount Moriah	No Leasing	81,743
Wheeler Peak	No Leasing	60,151
Quinn Canyon	No Leasing	99,750
Ruby Mountains	No Leasing	67,093
Grant Range	No Leasing	53,383
Jarbidge Additions	No leasing	23,440
Highland Ridge	No Leasing	33,184
Jarbidge Wilderness	Withdrawn From Leasing	64,667
Jarbidge Culinary Watershed	No Surface Occupancy (Stipulation #11)	7,680
Ruby Mountains Scenic Area	No Surface Occupancy (Stipulation #1)	9,000
Recreation Areas Schell Range	No Surface Occupancy (Stipulation #3)	1,222
Administrative and Developed Recreation Sites Forest-wide	No Leasing	242
	TOTAL	501,555

b. Current Management Direction

The policy of the Forest is to integrate the development of mineral resources with the use and conservation of other Forest resources.

The Mining Law of 1872 consolidated earlier laws and established the rights of citizens to explore, claim, and mine certain minerals wherever they are found on public domain lands, including those within the National Forest System unless closed by withdrawal. The minerals covered by this law are called locatable minerals. Congress removed certain minerals from the jurisdiction of the 1872 law and made them leasable minerals under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, the 1947 Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands and the 1955 Multiple Surface Use Act. The Materials Act of 1947 and the 1955 Mining Act gave the Forest Service the authority to sell certain common minerals (sand, gravel, and similar materials) called "saleable minerals."

All minerals owned by the United States available for exploration and development are subject to disposal under one of these three categories - locatables, leasables, or saleables.

Any person proposing to conduct operations for locatable minerals that might significantly disturb a surface resource must file a Notice of Intent with the District Ranger.

Permits, licenses, or leases for leasable minerals (oil, gas, coal, geothermal, phosphate) are issued by the Department of the Interior. The Forest has the opportunity to perform environmental analysis, recommend action, list stipulations, and propose requirements for rehabilitation. On acquired lands, the Forest Service has authority to deny permits, licenses, and leases.

Saleable minerals are managed by the Forest Service. Permits are issued for use of these materials in accordance with Forest Service policy.

c. Current Situation

Locatables

Extensive exploration activities presently occur on the Humboldt National Forest for locatable minerals with the primary minerals of interest being gold, silver, barite, molybdenum, tungsten and copper. Major areas of interest are the Mountain City and Ely Ranger Districts.

There were approximately 125 mining/exploration operations on the Humboldt National Forest during 1982. Most of the old mining districts (which number 45) continue to attract new exploratory work and small production operations. Table III-9 lists mining districts presently in production.

TABLE III-9
ACTIVE MINING DISTRICTS ON THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

MINING DISTRICT	RANGER DISTRICT	COMMODITY	REMARKS
Edgemont	Mtn. City	Gold/Silver	On patented and public domain open pit and underground.
Aura	"	Gold/Silver	
Mtn. City	"	Gold	Heapleach, placer
Island Mtn.	"	Gold/Silver	Underground and open pit
Charleston	"	Gold/Barite	Underground and open pit
Jerritt Canyon	"	Gold	FMC-Bell Mine, 300,000 oz/year
White Pine	Ely	Silver	Heapleach and open pit
Currant	"	Gold	Heapleach
Taylor	"	Gold	Open pit - 1,000,000 oz/year
Osceola	"	Silver	Placer
Mt. Moriah	"	Bldg. Stone	
Troy	"	Gold	Placer

There are approximately 20,000 mining claims on the Humboldt National Forest for a total of approximately 421,000 acres. This amounts to 17 percent of the Humboldt National Forest. Table III-10 summarizes the mining claims on the Humboldt National Forest.

TABLE III-10
NUMBER OF MINING CLAIMS BY RANGER DISTRICTS ON THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

RANGER DISTRICTS	AREA OF DISTRICT	NUMBER OF CLAIMS
Mountain City	Mountain City	1,756
	Bull Run Basin & Mtns.	927
	Northeast & Eastern	2,156
	Independence Range	5,433
	TOTAL	10,282
Jarbidge	District Wide	369
Ruby Mtns.	District Wide	564
Santa Rosa	District Wide	587
Ely	Quinn Division	1,069
	White Pine Division	3,976
	Ward Mountain	243
	Schell Range	1,122
	Mt. Moriah	129
	TOTAL	8,230
	GRAND TOTAL	20,032

Leasables

Present oil/gas activities on the Humboldt National Forest consist of various types of geophysical surveys, such as seismic surveys. Oil/gas drilling is likely to be quite rare on Humboldt National Forest lands. Geothermal exploration activities on the Humboldt National Forest are presently limited to non-surface disturbing geophysical surveys.

Based on the Humboldt Forest files, which include copies of leases which have been issued and serial register pages, there are presently 304,159 acres of National Forest System Lands leased for oil/gas and 3,341 acres leased for geothermal resources. Leases are for a 10-year period. This gives a total of 307,500 acres leased, or 12 percent of the total Forest with an annual rental or $1.00/acre for the first five years. The lease then becomes $2.00/acre/year. The rentals received for these leases is paid to the Treasury. Many more acres of leases are pending issuance for various reasons. Some have been recommended for leasing by the Forest Service but must go through the BLM leasing process before issuance. The number of acres leased for oil/gas is expected to increase during the next five years due to increased exploration interest in Nevada. Approximately 50 oil/gas lease applications were processed on the Humboldt National Forest during 1982.

Oil/gas and geothermal leases provide a return to the Treasury in rental fees and royalties. Since there is presently no oil/gas or geothermal production, no royalties are collected. The majority of the oil/gas leases occur on the Ely Ranger District.

As stated above there are only 3,341 acres of geothermal leases issued on the Forest. This acreage is all in the Ruby Valley Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA). Geothermal exploration activity will increase but not to such a great extent to cause major impacts on time and personnel. The Mountain City District, north of Wildhorse Reservoir has lands classified as "Prospectively Valuable for Geothermal Resources". A smaller area at the north end of the Schell Division is also classified as "Prospectively Valuable for Geothermal Resources".

Common Varieties

Extensive deposits of sand/gravel and building stone exist on the Forest. Demand for common variety minerals produced on the Forest is low. Most ranches, towns and government entities in close proximity to the Forest have their own pits or quarries. There are occasional large sales of sand/gravel for local highway projects. The Forest Service is usually the largest user of gravel materials. The gravel is used for road maintenance.

d. Expected Future Condition/Demand - Locatables

Growth in activities related to mineral and energy during the past five years has been at the rate of approximately 20 percent per year. Exploration activity for hard rock minerals such as gold, silver and barite is expected to continue to increase, but at a more moderate rate, perhaps 5-10 percent per year. As mineral exploration companies evaluate targets on Forest lands during the next 5-10 years, the number of operating plans should peak and then level off as targets are rejected.

The output in dollar value from mines is estimated to be 115 million for 1984. Production is extrapolated in millions of 1983 dollars as follows:

YEAR	PRODUCTION (Millions of Dollars)
1981	28
1982	61
1983	100
1984	115
1985	130
1986/1990	150
1991/2020	163
2021/2030	140

These figures reflect the probable production assuming no new mines open. However, it is likely new mines will open over the years as more targets are explored. The Forest is included within a major geologically defined gold and silver province. There is no direct return to the treasury from hard rock mining. The increase in local economies and taxes, both local and income taxes, does provide a sizeable return to government entities.

Exploration activity tends to concentrate around the old mining districts. New theories of ore deposition are leading to exploration, development and production activities in areas which were considered to have low potential. Mineral potential on the Humboldt National Forest is: 25 percent of the area has high potential for location and development of ore bodies; 55 percent has moderate mineral potential; 20 percent has low potential. This means that 25 percent of the Humboldt National Forest is located in areas with demonstrated economic mineral production and favorable geologic indicators; 55 percent of the Humboldt National Forest includes areas with known mineralization, possibly some production and favorable geologic indicators; 20 percent of the Humboldt National Forest is located in areas that have no known production and few or no favorable geologic indicators.

Especially significant exploration areas are:

Mountain City District

- The Independence Range has many thrust plates which are being explored for disseminated gold and barite. (Three major gold exploration ore body delineation drilling projects.).

- From Wildhorse Reservoir north, there are many Mesozoic intrusives, Tertiary volcanics and major regional crossing shear fault zones, which are being explored for gold, silver, copper, molybdenum, tungsten and uranium.

Ruby Mountain District

- The south end of the Ruby Mountains are being drilled for gold and silver. This is just north of Amselco's Alligator Ridge Mine.

Ely District

- Northern areas of the White Pine Range for gold and silver in the old mining districts.
- Monte Cristo area of the White Pine Range for molybdenum and tungsten.
- The southwest corner of the White Pine Range for molybdenum and tungsten.
- The entire White Pine Range has a sedimentary, siliceous breccia (may be a thrust breccia) which carries gold and silver. This unit will continue to be a target until it is satisfactorily drilled out.
- The Quinn Canyon Range for molybedenum, tungsten, copper, gold, and silver. This area has extensive fluorite deposits, which are classically associated with molybedenum ore bodies.
- The Schell Range for gold and silver, especially the south half which has many thrust plates.
- West side of the Snake Range for beryllium, tungsten and silver.

Maps showing the mining district mineral occurrences, mining claim distribution, and active mines and mineral potential are available in Humboldt National Forest planning process files.

Demand is likely to exceed the supply of minerals.

e. Expected Future Condition/Demand - Leasables

Based on present knowledge and concepts of oil/gas formation and entrapment, few wells will likely be drilled on the Forest. However, the Forest lands will be leased, and geophysical studies such as seismic exploration will occur. Presently, the largest impact from leasing has been seismic operations. There are no areas with high potential for oil/gas accumulation, due to the mountainous, structurally complex and faulted nature of the ranges which comprise forest lands. It is still possible, though, that new concepts and exploration methods will enable operators to find oil/gas in these mountain ranges. Twenty years ago, the idea of finding oil in areas such as the Wyoming/Utah overthrust would not have been well received.

New oil/gas discoveries in Railroad Valley and Pine Valley, Nevada, are generating renewed interest in the Great Basin. The east flank of the Grant Range, adjacent to Railroad Valley, has been classified as having moderate potential for oil and gas. This activity will lead to more seismic lines being run on the Forest.

Most of the Forest is classified as "Lands Valuable for Oil and Gas" except the extreme tops of the Snake and Grant Ranges, the Ruby Mountains, East Humboldt and Santa Rosa Ranges and part of the Mountain City District.

No other areas are classified as valuable for other leasable resources such as coal, potassium or sulfur.

The Mountain City District could become a major target for geothermal exploration since it lies within an area of very high regional heat flow and is on the trend of the Midas Trench/Battle Mountain High. This trend extends from near Reno, northeast to the Yellowstone area. There are several hot springs within the Mountain City District. The trend also extends through the Jarbidge District.

Demand for energy resources is likely to continue and possibly increase. Oil/gas is just in the beginning stages of exploration in Nevada. Oil/gas exploration is likely to increase over the next five years. No oil/gas well developments should occur any sooner than five years. However, an occasional "wildcat" well may be drilled sooner.

Demand for geothermal resources may increase during the next five years for power generation. The immediate applications include space heating, drying of vegetables and other small scale applications. Power generation applications will probably not become a dominant geothermal use for 10-15 years.

E. SUPPORT ELEMENTS

1. Protection

a. Fire

The Humboldt's fire management program is a coordinated interagency effort involving Federal and state agencies. The overall Forest objectives are to immediately respond to and suppress all wildfires in a timely manner. The only exception to this policy is the occasional lightning-caused fire in high elevation, rocky areas where safety considerations preclude aggressive direct attack. In these cases, surveillance has been the appropriate action. The Forest has no approved fire management areas. From 1970 to 1979, an average of 19 fires occurred annually; 27 percent of which were human-caused. The human caused fires accounted for 73 percent of the 3,925 acres burned annually.

Although the annual burned acreage has been high, resource damage has been light.

Human-caused fires can be expected to increase as recreation visitor use increases, although long-lasting negative effects are not expected. Periodic, large, fast-moving fires will probably increase unless prevention efforts are strengthened.

A cooperative agreement with the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) covers initial attack responsibilities on the 1,081,290 acres comprising the Mountain City, Ruby Mountain and Jarbidge Ranger Districts. An agreement between the BLM and the Ely District provides for assuming attack responsibilities on certain lands normally administered by the other agency. An agreement between the BLM and the Santa Rosa Ranger District also calls for mutual attack areas.

Part of the NDF agreement requires the Forest Dispatcher to dispatch for the NDF during the normal fire season. A joint dispatching facility for NDF, BLM, and Forest Service is being constructed at the new BLM Elko District Office.

Besides agency personnel, the NDF supervises prisoner honor camps throughout the state which provide fire crews. The Nevada Youth Training Center in Elko also maintains two crews for fighting fires.

The Forest does not have any fire lookouts for detection purposes. Most of the Forest is visible from surrounding private land. Occasionally, aerial flights are used following severe lightening activity. Fuels management is not a major concern on the Forest due to the lack of heavy fuels. Prescribed burning is conducted for benefits to range and wildlife.

b. Air Quality

The National Clean Air Act requires that airsheds be designated under one of three classes:

Class I - Only minor air quality deterioration
Class II - Permited moderate deterioration
Class III - Permitted deterioration up to National Ambient Air Quality Standards

At present, the entire Humboldt National Forest (except for the Jarbidge Wilderness Area, which is designated as Class I) is designated as Class II.

Air quality on the Humboldt National Forest is very good and meets all applicable state and Federal standards. Occasional problems arise from poor smoke dispersion as a result of prescribed burns and wildfires and dust produced from unpaved roads. These problems are local and temporary and do not affect large areas at one time.

c. Insect and Disease

Forest pests have a direct and significant impact on Forest resources. Areas particularly affected include recreation sites, timber stands, and rangelands. The principal insects and diseases affecting the Forest are grasshoppers, Mormon crickets, black grass bugs, rangeland caterpiller, Douglas-fir tussock moth, fir engraver beetle, pinyon needle scale, dwarf mistletoes, root rots, and pests of pinyon seed. Pest impacts on resources are generally not significant, except in developed recreation sites and rangeland.

The Forest has numerous developed public use areas such as campgrounds and picnic areas. Tree hazard reduction programs are utilized to safeguard the public and protect the natural resources at these sites. Hazard tree programs consist of recreation area hazard tree evaluation, documentation, and corrective action. Vegetative management plans for recreation sites take into account reduction of hazards from defective trees, maintenance of desireable vegetative cover by preventing insect and disease outbreaks and enhancement of vegetation for the long-term.

The infestation of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets, although cyclic in nature, can cause devastation to localized rangelands. In some cases 50 percent of the annual forage production can be consumed thus reducing available forage for livestock and wildlife. The control of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets is the responsibility of Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

Since the Forest does not have a suitable timber base, pest control will generally be confined to developed recreation sites, rodent control in meadows and grasshopper control in cooperation with APHIS. APHIS conducts evaluations on range pests while the Forest Service Pest Management section conducts evaluations of forest pests.

d. Law Enforcement

The Forest Service has statutory responsibility to protect the Forest resources on National Forest System lands. To redeem this responsibility, the Humboldt National Forest, in cooperation with state, local, and other Federal law enforcement agencies, maintains a law enforcement program that encourages public compliance with laws and regulations through signing, personal contracts and the media; and provides for protection and safety of Forest users through cooperative agreements with Elko and White Pine Counties.

Employees assigned law enforcement duties are trained to perform such duties with competence and confidence. The Forest presently has the part-time services of one Zone Special Agent and two full time level four Law Enforcement Officers. The Special Agent has overall law enforcement program responsibilities including complex investigations that are not within the expertise of other Forest officers. District law enforcment is mainly handled by associate officers. Frequently, they are the only persons available to maintain order or to initiate enforcement action. The Forest officer, by virtue of his uniform and badge, is the one visible symbol of authority to the Forest visitor for his protection.

The Forest's major areas of concern and law enforcement activity are man-caused fires, vandalism, theft of government property and forest products, ORV violations, trespass, theft of campground fees and alcohol and drug-related problems associated with large group gatherings.

Property cases involving theft and vandalism at government facilities are due in part to remoteness and easy access. It is anticipated that these types of incidents and other law enforcement problems will increase with the growth of the general population.

2. Lands

a. Ownership

When the Humboldt National Forest was established, there were considerable acreages of lands in other ownership within the Forest boundary. These were mostly homesteads and mining patents and checkerboard railroad grants. Land ownership adjustment activity has been moderate in the past because of uncertain funding for purchase and lack of exchange funding.

The general policy is to consolidate National Forest lands within existing National Forest units with emphasis on acquiring lands in those areas where present National Forest System Lands constitute an appreciable proportion of the area, and through exchanges to dispose of tracts classified as suitable for exchange purposes. Such lands usually include isolated tracts, detached parcels, or projecting narrow strips of National Forest lands, except those which include special public values. Land ownership adjustments for private and government agencies are expected to increase in the immediate future. Approximately 44,000 acres have been identified for disposal through exchange and 64,000 acres identified for acquisition.

b. Classification

Special classification of land often restricts resource uses and may affect objectives for land acquisition or disposal. Only 153,468 acres in the Humboldt National Forest are in special classifications listed in Table III-11 below:

TABLE III-11
ACRES IN SPECIAL CLASSIFICATION

AREAS	ACRES
Existing Wilderness (Jarbidge)	64,667
Scenic Areas	
Ruby Mountains	40,000
Wheeler Peak	28,000
Sub Total	68,000
Research Natural Ares (undetermined)	N/A
Withdrawls that affect disposal	
Administrative/Recreation Sites	6,529
Power/Irrigation Projects	512
Mountain City Municipal Watershed	6,080
Jarbidge Municipal Watershed	7,680
Sub Total	20,801
GRAND TOTAL	153,468

The only new withdrawals contemplated are those to be specified in new wilderness legislation pertaining to mineral entry or site specific withdrawals for administrative sites or other major investment areas such as developed recreation sites that must be protected.

The intermingled public and private lands within the boundary of the Forest plus the fact that some units of the Forest are almost completely surrounded by private land without ROWs, have resulted in many access problems. These problems are becoming more critical as demands for the use of public land increase. Private landowners are reluctant to grant ROWs to the Forest Service unless there is a significant benefit to the landowner. When an ROW is in the public interest and the property owner is unwilling to grant an easement, the right of eminent domain can be used.

The Forest presently acquires three rights-of-way (ROW) annually. The current emphasis is to acquire ROWs where access problems are the greatest.

Presently, there are 223 non-recreational special uses and 27 recreation permits of various types on the Forest. There is an average of about 10 new cases per year. The following table is a summary of the existing (1983) special land use permits on the Humboldt National Forest.

TABLE III-12
EXISTING SPECIAL LAND USE PERMITS

KIND OF USE	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL USES	TOTAL MILES ROW LENGTH	TOTAL ACRES PERMITTED AREA
100 Recreation	27	27	0	65.5
200 Agriculture	11	11	4.0	478.9
300 Community	5	5	.5	4.7
400 Industrial	4	4	0	28.7
600 Research, Study, Training	12	12	0	108.8
700 Transportation	46	46	104.9	334.3
800 Utilities Communication	69	71	153.8	1943.4
900 Water	76	79	663.9	436.9
TOTAL	250	255	927.1	3400.7

A general assumption is that requests on the Forest for various special uses will increase substantially in future years. Accommodating the proposed uses will become more difficult without conflicting with other Forest management activities.

c. Special Areas

The Forest at the present time has no areas classified as Research Natural Areas (RNAs). However, there are 5 sites that have been inventoried as candidate Research Natural Areas:

(1) Mt. Washington Bristlecone

Approximately 260 acres located in portions of Sections 11 and 12, T.12N., R.68E., Mount Diablo Baseline Meridian (MDBM). This area is located in White Pine County, Ely Ranger District. A principal feature is a stand of old bristlecone pines, which can be used to build chronologies through tree-ring research. Also present are stands codominated by limber and bristlecone pines, typical of subalpine forests in the east-central Great Basin.

(2) White Pine Peak

Approximately 670 acres located in portions of Sections 20, 28, 29, 32 and 33, T.12N., R.58E., MDBM. The peak is located in Nye County, Ely Ranger District. The principal feature of this area is a "native rangeland," consisting of sagebrush-grass communities in nearly-pristine condition, which are scarce in the Great Basin. Also present are small stands of white fir and of limber pine-bristlecone pine. This area is important in providing an area suitable for conducting research on high elevation sagebrush sites.

(3) Seitz Canyon

Approximately 980 acres located in portions of Sections 20, 21, 28, 29, 32 and 33, T.32N., R.58E., MDBM. The canyon is located in Elko County, Ruby Mountain Ranger District. This area features a rich and diverse floral component. Many types of plant communities are present, including riparian wetlands, subalpine herb- and shrublands, and alpine herblands. The canyon also exhibits metamorphic rock types and effects of alpine glaciation, neither of which are common in the Great Basin. This area is important in providing a site for conducting riparian classification and management research.

(4) Jack Creek Crater

Approximately 250 acres located in portions of Sections 26 and 27, T.46N., R.58E., MDBM. The crater is located in Elko County , Jarbidge Ranger District. The principal feature is a stand codominated by whitebark pine and subalpine fir, neither of which is well represented in the Great Basin. Small riparian communities are also present.

(5) Pearl Peak

Approximately 640 acres located in portions of Sections 3, 4, 9 and 10, T.27N., R.57E., MDBM. The peak is located in Elko County, Ruby Mountain Ranger District. Its principal features are ungrazed sagebrush-grass types at middle and lower elevations, and a limber pine-bristlecone pine woodland at upper elevations. Some of the brisltecones may be very old, and thus useful for dendrochronological research.

3. Soils

The soils within the Humboldt National Forest vary considerably depending on landform, geology, vegetation, and geomorphic processes. The Forest is located primarily in the Basin and Range Physiographic province with a large variety of parent materials present. These geologic units include hard and soft sedimentaries, metamorphics, igneous, and volcanic rock types.

Geomorphic processes have acted to reshape most of the lands since their initial uplift.

Broad associations exist between vegetation communities and soils on the Forest. At low elevations light colored, low vegetation potential soils support pinyon-juniper woodland types with low and black sagebrush understories. Such areas possess moderately high soil erosion hazards and provide limited opportunities for intensive range, wildlife, and watershed management.

Tall sagebrush communities exist over all elevations on dark colored soils with moderate production potentials. These soils vary considerably in their suitability for intensive resource management dependent primarily upon steepness of slope, texture and rock content. Soil erosion hazards are generally moderate on these soils. Mountain brush and aspen communities occur at mid to high elevations on dark colored, high production soils, with low to moderate soil erosion hazards. Opportunities for range, wildlife and watershed management are excellent on such soils.

Coniferous vegetation types are found on high elevation, light colored, low production potential soils. Soil erosion hazards are usually low in this vegetation type, however removal of overstory cover can result in significant increases in soil erosion.

The primary objective of soil management on the Forest is to match management activities to the capability and suitability of the soil to assure long-term soil quality and productivity. A secondary objective is to use soil information in such a way that cost effective decisions can be made with respect to ongoing management practices, i.e., vegetative manipulation, site reclamation, etc. These objectives can best be met through a knowledge of soil properties and variability brought about by soil inventory.

A broad level reconnaissance soil survey (Order 4) has been completed for most of the Forest. However, this level of inventory is too broad for most management needs. A more detailed soil survey (Order 3) is currently underway with a target completion date for the Forest of 1995. Information obtained from this level of survey as well as site specific documentation derived from project support services, will help meet the objectives of soil management.

Continuing concern by the public to maintain the productivity of the soil will require increased management emphasis on maintaining soil productivity and quality. The quantification of the soil resource through soil inventory and monitoring will have to be made, in order to keep pace with this demand.

4. Facilities

The Humboldt National Forest has numerous facilities including roads, bridges, administrative sites, buildings, dams, and water systems. They require considerable time and money for operation and maintenance. There has been a large investment made in these facilities to enable the development, protection, and use of Forest resources.

Transportation

The most important part of the Forest's transportation system is the road network. The road network is comprised of arterial, collector, and local roads. The arterial and collector roads provide access to large segments of the Forest and generally serve multiple resource activities. Local roads generally are shorter roads serving single resource activities.

The essential parts of the road network are the arterial and collector roads. There are approximately 600 miles of arterial and collector roads on the Forest.

Three of the arterial and collector roads have been proposed as Forest highways. Two of the proposed roads have been evaluated and designated as Forest highways. These two roads are the Steptoe Creek-Duck Creek Road, Forest Highway 23, and the Harrison Pass Road, Forest Highway 24. The third proposed route being evaluated but not yet designated as a Forest highway is the Jarbidge Road.

There are several thousand miles of local roads on the Forest not all of which have been inventoried. Road densities on the Forest vary from 0 to 4.5 miles per square mile.

The majority of roads needed by the Forest are already in place. The only arterial or collector road construction needed is a short piece on the Santa Rosa District. New local road construction needs vary considerably by area and resource activity.

The Forest road inventory has 2,320 miles of Forest arterial, collector and local roads listed. The majority of the inventoried roads are within the Forest boundaries. Few of the arterial and collector roads outside the Forest are included on the inventory. The inventory is available for review in the Supervisor's Office.

Each of the roads on the inventory is assigned a desired maintenance level to which the road should be maintained. Five levels of road maintenance are established.

READEX FICHE

Listed below are the number of miles of road assigned to each maintenance level:

LEVEL	MILES
Level 1	580 miles
level 2	991 miles
Level 3, 4, 5	749 miles

Few of the roads have been maintained at their assigned level of maintenance due to funding constraints. Therefore, maintenance activities have been concentrated on arterial and collector roads with emphasis on reduction of safety hazards and resource damage prevention. Many of the roads are not at the standard necessary for the safe, efficient, and economical transportation of people and goods. Also, many of the roads have deteriorated to the point they are difficult to drive on and difficult and expensive to maintain. Extensive reconstruction is needed throughout the network, but particularly on the arterial and collector roads to bring the roads up to the desired standard and make the roads maintainable at the proper level.

There are 38 road bridges, 3 trail bridges, and 5 major culverts on the Forest bridge inventory. The bridge inventory is available for review in the Supervisor's Office.

Ten of the road bridges are considered inadequate for Forest needs. These ten bridges have been scheduled for replacement in the Regional Bridge Replacement Program for completion by Fiscal Year 1987.

There are 24 fixed-wing airfields on the Forest Airfield Inventory. No heliport or helicopter pads have been inventoried. Little information is available on the condition and adequacy of the airfields on the inventory. The airfield inventory is available for review in the Supervisor's Office.

Administrative Sites, Buildings and Support Facilities

There are 106 major building structures inventoried on the Forest including offices, dwellings, barns, warehouses, workshops, and various storage sheds. The building inventory is available for review in the Supervisor's office.

Existing buildings were constructed from the 1930's to the present, with the majority built in the late 1950's and early 1960's. Some buildings are in poor conditon and do not meet all applicable state and local building and health codes. Water and sewer systems serving the buildings and administrative sites also do not all meet applicable standards. Many of the buildings and associated water and sewer systems need to be renovated or replaced to function efficiently and economically.

There are 35 dams on the Forest Dam Inventory. Twenty-seven of the dams are owned and inspected by the Forest Service, 7 are under special use permits and inspected by the Forest Service, and 1 is owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and inspected by the Bureau of Reclamation. The dam inventory is available for review in the Supervisor's Office.

The majority of the dams are small with a low hazard rating and none have serious safety problems at present. Many of the Forest Service and special use permit dams are in need of more maintenance and, in some cases, reconstruction or improvements to prevent major problems from developing.

The Forest communications system consists of the commerical phone system and 145 various items of radio equipment, such as personal portables, mobile units, base stations, and repeaters. Communication between offices at present is expensive and radio communication between offices and field personnel is erratic. A more efficient and cost-effective system of communication between offices and between offices and field personnel is badly needed.

5. CORRIDORS

a. Highways

The major highway corridors serving the Forest have been identified. Part of this inventory is included within the arterial and collector road network. The rest of the inventory is major state, county, and Federal transportation routes. As mentioned earlier two of these major state and county highways have been proposed for reconstruction and improvement under the Forest Highway Investment Program.

b. Utilities

Maps showing existing and proposed utilities rights-of-way and communication sites are available for review in the Supervisor's Office. All but one of the utility corridors are in existing utility rights-of-way and transportation corridors. The proposed corridor is a transmission line connection between the Mountain City line of Idaho Power Company and the Wildhorse line of Sierra Pacific Power Company. Field studies have been conducted to determine if the existing rights-of-way are capable of absorbing additional uses. Technical compatibility and feasibility studies remain to be done to determine whether the existing and proposed rights-of-way are compatible. These studies will be completed as specific proposals are received.

6. HUMAN AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The Humboldt National Forest is committed to the program of human and community development, which has as its primary objective, helping people and communities to help themselves. The program includes activities that provide work and learning experiences for youth, adult employment, training opportunities, and technical assistance to individuals and communities.

The Forest is actively engaged in a variety of human resource programs. A summary of the major programs is as follows:

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). The Forest has been an active participant in this program, and its predecessor, Operation Mainstream, for many years. There are currently 12 enrollees, 55 years of age or older who meet low income requirements specified by the Department of Labor.

Volunteers in National Forest Program. This program provides the means whereby the Forest may legally accept and utilize the service of volunteers and at the same time provide training and individual work experience to these people. The volunteers are integrated into regular programs and perform work in recreation, range, wildlife and engineering projects. The number of volunteers on the Forest is on a steady rise.

Stay in School. This program is for economically disadvantaged high school students. We currently host two youth in this program and could host more if ceilings were to be made available.

The Forest has hosted Young Adult Conservaton Corp (YACC), Youth Conservation Corp (YCC), and the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) Programs and will again if and when such programs are funded.

The demand for Human Resource Program enrollees is high on the Forest. Because the use of the programs expands the dollar efficiency of outputs, the Forest will utilize the program whenever available. The supply of potential enrollees is also great, particularly with the youth programs.

IV.

Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER IV
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes and explains the evironmental consequences of implementing any of the proposed alternatives. This is the scientific and analytic comparison of the alternatives described in Chapter II. The varying consequences to the environment result from the different combinations of management practices called for under each alternative. The environmental consequences of implementing any of the alternatives are held within acceptable limits by law, regulations, and Forest-wide standards and quidelines.

National Forest land and resource management planning is designed to maximize net public benefits in an environmentally sound manner. Net public benefits consist of both priced and non-priced yields. Priced yields are those which can be quantitatively determined in the marketplace by actual market transactions or by estimation methods which produce prices commensurate with those determined by market transactions. Examples of priced yields on the Humboldt National Forest are: the price received from an animal unit month and the value of developed recreation opportunities. Non-priced yields are those for which there is no available transaction evident and no reasonable basis for estimating a market value commensurate with market values associated with priced yields. Examples of non-priced yields are: wilderness use, dispersed recreation use, protection of cultural resources and maintenance of soil productivity. Certain non-priced yields are primarily qualitative (protection of cultural resources and maintenance of soil productivity) while others are essentially quantitative (wilderness and dispersed recreation use).

The environmental consequences are described in a narrative and displayed in tables. All alternatives are compared with the Current Management Alternative. Change tables show the current management FY 1986 value.

Tables in this chapter display resources and activity outputs for a 50 year period. All information shown for periods beyond the first decade are estimates of potential only and are not planned or programmed. Actual programmed accomplishment beyond the first decade will be set through subsequent Forest Plan revisions.

In all tables of changes, the alternatives are lettered in the same order as they are described in detail in Chapter II.

Alternative A - Significant Wilderness/Commodity Emphasis
Alternative C - Present Net Value
Alternative D - Current Budget
Alternative E - Constrained Budget
Alternative F - 1985 RPA Update
Alternative H - Current Management
Alternative I - Market Opportunities
Alternative J - Non-market Opportunities
Alternative K - Preferred Alternative

Adjustments to the predicted consequences in future amendments to the plan and revisions will be based on information obtained from the monitoring program. The monitoring requirements are explained in Chapter V of the Forest Plan.

This chapter is organized as follows: Section B describes the direct and indirect environmental effects by resource elements such as range or recreation. Comparisons are made in subsections titled "Probable Impact of the Alternatives", "Unavoidable Adverse Effect", "Short-Term vs. Long-Term Effects", and "Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources". Section C discusses the economic effects and Section D discusses the social effects of each alternative. Possible conflicts between projected effects of the preferred alternative and the land-use plans and policies of other Federal, regional, State of Nevada and local governments are discussed in Section E. Section F discusses the energy requirements and conservation potential of the alternatives.

Sections G, H, and I deal in summary form with "Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources", "Adverse Environmental Effects that Cannot Be Avoided", and "Short-term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance of Long-term Productivity".

Section J reviews the "Natural or Depletable Resource Requirements", and Section K treats "Urban Quality, Historic, and Cultural Resources".

B. DIRECT AND INDIRECT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

RECREATION

a. Probable Effects of Implementing Alternatives

(1) Developed Recreation - Public

Under the 1985 RPA (Alt. F) and Preferred (Alt. K) the number of facilities will increase and quality will improve. Under Current Budget (Alt. D), Constrained (Alt. E), Current Management (Alt. H), and Non-Market (Alt. J) services will be reduced and sites and facilities will deteriorate. The Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and PNV (Alt. C) will maintain currrent facility capacity. The Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), and the Preferred (Alt. K) will manage sites at the full service level. The Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) provide for no reconstruction of recreation sites resulting in the most site deterioration.

The other alternatives provide for some reconstruction of deteriorating facilities. The 1985 RPA (Alt. F) and Market (Alt. I) provide for construction of new recreational facilities.

The Forest has sufficient developed site capacity to meet anticipated demand until the year 2000 if present facilities are adequately maintained and rehabilitated. Preferred (Alt. K) would do this. At the year 2000, the need for additional facilities will be reevaluated. The 1985 RPA (Alt. F) and Market (Alt. I) will provide additional opportunities for developed site recreation by adding capacity above anticipated demand. The other alternatives would not meet demand. The Current Budget (Alt. D), Constrained Budget (Alt. E), Current Management (Alt. H) and Non-Market (Alt. J) allow present facilities to deteriorate.

Constructing or reconstructing a developed site removes some vegetation, disturbs the soil, and may displace domestic livestock and some wildlife species. Human use of recreation sites causes additional loss of vegetation, soil compaction, and stream bank deterioration. These sites are often located within or adjacent to riparian zones. Most effects of human use can be mitigated by hardening the site or adding facilities to protect it.

Portions of some developed sites are on 100-year flood plains. These sites are subject to flooding and loss of facilities, requiring additional expenditures for facilities to divert flood waters. Such sites will be closed to public use when there is potential for flooding.

(2) Developed Recreation - Private

Use of recreational residences and organization sites is expected to increase under all alternatives. No new recreation residence tracts will be designated under any alternative. Other recreation special uses will be allowed under all alternatives where there is a public need, the use is compatible with other uses, and private lands are unavailable to fill the need.

The Forest at present has no developed downhill ski areas. Between 1976 and 1978 an inventory of potential ski areas was conducted. Fourteen sites were identified as having some potential. These were evaluated for their potential and given a rating of "outstanding", "good", "fair", or "reject". Only one site rated "good". The remainder were considered "fair". Because of distances from population centers, lack of adequate snow and minimal commercial transportation facilities, none of the sites are identified as potential ski areas in any of the alternatives.

Construction of facilities allowed under recreation special use permits causes vegetative loss, and soil disturbances, and displaces some types of wildlife. Human use of the facilities and their surrounding areas increases the vegetation loss and disruption of wildlife. Increased capacity for any use will place additional demands on utilities, water systems, roads, and other structures.

(3) Dispersed Recreation

Dispersed recreation opportunities and services will decline in the PNV (Alt. C), Current Budget (Alt. D), Constrained Budget (Alt. E), and Market (Alt. I) and remain at the present level under Current Management (Alt. H). Opportunities and services will increase under the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), RPA (Alt. F), Non-Market (Alt. J) and the Preferred (Alt. K). Also, services will be offered at a higher quality, including greater protection for soil and vegetation. Under these alternatives, the trail system will deteriorate from inadequate maintenance under the Current Budget (Alt. D), Constrained Budget (Alt. E), Current Management (Alt. H), and the Market (Alt. I). The Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), Non-Market (Alt. J), the 1985 RPA (Alt. F) and the Preferred (Alt. K) will increase trail mileage slightly. PNV (Alt. C) and the Preferred (Alt. K) will increase trail maintenance on the existing trail system.

The Preferred (Alt. K) will improve opportunities for dispersed recreation. Information systems will be improved, present trails will be brought up to standard, and trailhead facilities for both summer and winter use will be added at appropriate locations.

Areas available for use by motor vehicles will decrease in proportion to the amount of use allocated to wilderness. Little new road construction is planned under any alternative. The Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) will result in less motorized use due to the lack of maintenance.

Alternatives allowing the most wilderness will result in the least impacts from on and off-road vehicle use. Proper management can minimize damage to other resources in Market (Alt. I) since it makes the most area available for ORV use. The least damage will occur under the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), and Non-Market (Alt. J) because less area will be available for ORV use and enforcement of regulations will be more intensive. Effects of the other alternatives will fall between the two extremes.

A significant shift from the present demand for motorized opportunities is not expected to take place. However, land management decisions and resource activities that reduce the capacity of the land to provide motorized opportunities will have an effect on this demand. The Non-Market (Alt. J) would have the greatest effect and then the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), due to the amount of land unavailable for motorized opportunities. The Market Opportunity (Alt. I) would have the least effect.

Table IV-1 displays acres available for and restricted to motorized use, and Table IV-2 summarizes the projected changes in visitor use of both developed and dispersed recreation under all alternatives for years 1986 to 2028.

Construction of facilities associated with dispersed recreation will impact soil and vegetation and displace wildlife. Human use in dispersed areas affects water quality, causes minor loss of vegetation, and disturbs wildlife, particularly near popular lakes and streams. Increasing human use combined with less trail maintenance could increase erosion.

Grazing by livestock in developed sites may result in conflicts with recreation users. For this reason most developed sites are fenced. The amount of area removed from grazing is minor. Dispersed recreation use can result in harassment or displacement of livestock. The overall effect is minor.

Mineral exploration and development can adversely affect developed recreation sites. For this reason, most sites are withdrawn from mineral entry. The percentage of the Forest withdrawn from mineral entry is minor.

TABLE IV-1
AREAS AVAILABLE FOR USE BY MOTORIZED VEHICLES BY CATEGORIES OF USE (M ACRES)

ALTERNATIVE	VEHICLE USE PERMITTED	VEHICLE USE PROHIBITED	CLOSED RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS
A - Wilderness/Commodity	1273	21	1169
C - PNV	1793	21	649
D - Current Budget	2177	21	266
E - Constrained Budget	2232	59	172
F - 1985 RPA	2217	95	151
H - Current Management	2023	21	419
I - Market	2368	95	0
J - Non-Market	703	18	1743
K - Preferred	2174	21	268

Note: Closed does not include existing 64,667 acre Jarbidge Wilderness

TABLE IV-2
NUMBERS OF PROJECTED RECREATION VISITOR DAYS (IN THOUSANDS) FOR DEVELOPED AND DISPERSED RECREATION FOR SELECTED YEARS 1986 - 2035

DEVELOPED RECREATION

ALTERNATIVE	1986	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
A WILD/COMMODITY	202	203	201	202	199	197	199
C PNV	202	204	203	205	202	201	204
D CURRENT BUDGET	191	183	194	200	207	211	213
E CONST. BUDGET	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
F 1985 RPA	226	230	242	254	264	269	280
H CURRENT MGMT	193	194	194	192	189	187	190
I MARKET	202	203	201	202	199	197	200
J NON-MARKET	191	184	192	198	204	208	210
K PREFERRED	209	217	222	228	231	235	244

DISPERSED RECREATION

ALTERNATIVE	1986	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
A WILD/COMMODITY	390	427	453	460	478	492	497
C PNV	390	418	446	452	466	478	492
D CURRENT BUDGET	390	298	415	422	435	446	459
E CONST/BUDGET	226	398	415	420	434	444	458
F 1985 RPA	399	419	455	466	490	505	522
H CURRENT MGMT	388	400	419	427	441	453	466
I MARKET	380	390	398	406	422	436	449
J NON-MARKET	413	429	459	469	489	494	520
K PREFERRED	385	413	424	431	445	457	470

(4) Visual Resources

Impacts on the visual resource will be measured by changes from the landscape's natural appearance. Management standards and guidelines protect the natural appearance in varying degrees by setting visual quality objectives (VQO's) in keeping with the other objectives for each alternative. Table IV-3 shows acres in each visual quality category by alternative.

The Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), and Non-Market (Alt. J) set the highest visual quality objectives followed by the Current Management (Alt. H) and Current Budget (Alt. D). The Constrained Budget (Alt. E), 1985 RPA (Alt. F) and Market (Alt. I) will have the least initial change in visual quality objectives. This is based on the acreage allocated to wilderness which has a preservation objective. All alternatives will meet prescribed visual quality objectives except Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E).

TABLE IV-3
ACRES IN EACH VISUAL QUALITY OBJECTIVE
(M ACRES)

ALTERNATIVE	PRESER-VATION	RETENTION	PARTIAL RETENTION	MODIFICATION	MAXIMUM MODIFICATION
A WILD/COMMODITY	1266	47	115	600	500
C PNV	746	80	200	822	680
D CURRENT BUDGET	362	84	580	822	680
E CONST. BUDGET	269	104	653	822	680
F 1985 RPA	248	104	674	822	680
H CURRENT MGMT	516	84	426	822	680
I MARKET	97	197	732	822	680
J NON-MARKET	1839	20	69	300	300
K PREFERRED	268	84	674	822	680

Most of the visual quality impacts on the Forest are a result of minerals activities. Market (Alt. I) will provide the most funding to minerals administration which will effectively mitigate these impacts. Most other alternatives will also provide the emphasis needed to protect visual quality. Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) will not provide the administration necessary to mitigate the visual impacts of minerals and other activities.

Lamoille Canyon and Wheeler Peak Highways will be managed to preserve scenic qualities in all alternatives. The term "scenic" is for descriptive purposes. The Humboldt is not seeking Congressional designation but will encourage state or local government land use designation that would protect or enhance the scenic value of these highways.

(5) Cultural Resources

In the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), wilderness designation would provide protection from ground disturbing activities which could result in beneficial effects. Wilderness designation would limit some kinds of cultural resource investigation because no mechanical means would be allowed for survey and excavation. Excavation and stabilization would have to be fully justified and conform to wilderness values. No on-site signing would be allowed. Cultural resource management would affect wilderness management by requiring potential additional funding and time to monitor deterioration and possible vandalism at significant sites. Minerals activities would continue to have an impact on cultural resources but there would be an over-all decline in risk because of wilderness. Where minerals operations are allowed, cultural resource management would affect them through potential delays and increased costs for any necessary mitigation.

In PNV (Alt. C), Current Budget (Alt. D), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Current Managment (Alt. H), and Non-Market (Alt. J), minerals would continue to have the greatest impact on cultural resources. In the Market Opportunity (Alt. I) and Preferred (Alt. K) increased minerals management would decrease the potential risk to cultural resources. Decreased minerals management in the Constrained Budget (Alt. E) would increase the potential risk to cultural resources. In all alternatives, cultural resource management would affect minerals operations because of potential delays and increased costs for any necessary mitigation. These impacts would increase slightly in the alternatives with more intensive management.

Wildlife and/or range habitat improvements, particularly in pinyon-juniper, would increase risk to cultural resources because pinyon-juniper stands are considered to be highly sensitive cultural resource sites. In 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Market Opportunity (Alt. I), Non-Market (Alt. J) and Preferred (Alt. K) cultural resource management would affect habitat improvements by requiring additional time and funding for any necessary mitigation or by limiting improvement practices in some areas. Increased funding in these elements would increase the ability to manage cultural resources in relation to them. In the Constrained Budget (Alt. E), impacts from grazing and other resource improvements would be minimal because of reduced operations. Risk of natural deterioration and vandalism would increase because of over-all decreased management.

An emphasis on developed recreation in the Market Opportunity (Alt. I) and Preferred (Alt. K) would increase potential risk to cultural resources through construction and increased accessibility. Increased funding would increase the ability to manage cultural resources in relation to development. Cultural resource management would affect developed recreation activities through potential delays and additional costs for any necessary mitigation or by limiting use in some areas. Potential cultural resource interpretation would enhance the recreation experience.

In the Preferred (Alt. K), overall potential risk to cultural resources would increase slightly from new trail construction and increased accessibility. Dispersed recreation activities could result in additional costs in mitigation or extensive methods of protection where necessary. Potential cultural resource interpretation would enhance dispersed recreation.

b. Unavoidable Adverse Effects

Reconstruction and construction of developed recreation sites will remove vegetation from roads and other facilities. Developed recreation sites preempt forage utilization by permitted livestock. Sites that receive heavy human use on holidays and weekends will suffer from loss of vegetation, soil compaction, and streambank damage. Construction and reconstruction of support facilities for dispersed recreation such as trailheads, parking areas, and toilets will result in removal of vegetation.

Use of off-road vehicles damages vegetation and disturbs the soil. The noise from these vehicles may cause wildlife to move short distances. The Market (Alt. I) will allow the most adverse effects, and Non-Market (Alt. J) the least. These adverse effects will significantly affect a relatively small area and will require careful management to insure the protection of other resources. Occasionally site rehabilitation will be necessary to insure compliance with regulations.

The greatest adverse effects from developed sites will result from implementation of 1985 RPA (Alt. F), which calls for new construction and increased reconstruction of recreation facilities. Some adverse effects will also be associated with the Preferred (Alt. K), which provides for increased reconstruction.

c. Short-term Vs. Long-term Productivity

Developed recreation sites are long-term commitments. Maintenance work is short-term, repeated periodically, and increases the long-term productivity of a site. Any new construction or reconstruction will add to the long-term effect. Adverse effects of developed recreation are expected to be long-term.

Recreation use of dispersed areas may cause long-term loss of soil and vegetation. However, construction of facilities can mitigate unacceptable impacts resulting from dispersed recreational use on undeveloped sites.

Construction for dispersed recreation is a long-term commitment for the occupied areas. Adverse effects of these facilities will continue as long as human use continues. Human visits themselves are short-term, but cumulative effects on areas that receive concentrated use or are on access routes may remain for the long term.

Most recreation special uses are long-term commitments of land for a specified use. The adverse effects continue as long as the special use remains. The major adverse effects of construction are short-term and can be mitigated or prevented.

Offroad vehicle travel is a short-term use. However, its cumulative effects may remain for many years. Proper management of ORV use can eliminate all but minor adverse effects on long-term productivity. Constrained Budget (Alt. E) and Current Budget (Alt. D) do not provide a strong management program and are most likely to allow long-term adverse effects on the land. The other alternatives call for stronger management programs to protect the land.

Changes in visual quality caused by resource management activities are usually long-term effects if they include permanent structures, roads, major soil movement, or major changes in vegetation. Temporary installations or minor activities cause short-term changes in visual quality.

Dedication of a site to cultural resource purposes is a long-term commitment. Destruction of a cultural resource without prior investigation permanently destroys its historical value.

d. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

Grading the soil and recontouring the land for road construction creates the most permanent change in the landscape and impact on soil and vegetation. Damage to soil and vegetation by human use takes a long time to heal naturally. The impacts caused by various recreational uses can be restored by removing structures, reestablishing the contour of the land, revegetating, and closing the area to human use. Impacts that cannot be mitigated include sedimentation of streams due to erosion, or the loss of wildlife or plant species. We do not expect to lose any species of wildlife or fish as a result of recreational use under any of the proposed alternatives. Sedimentation under any of the alternatives will be minimal and within acceptable standards.

We do not expect off-road vehicle travel to cause any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources.

Loss of a cultural resource site is irretrievable and irreversible. However, similar sites may provide the same information. Market (Alt. I) would provide the most protection against site loss. The Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Non-Market (Alt. J) and Preferred (Alt. K) will also protect cultural resources against irretrievable and irreversible losses by increasing the inventory program.

WILDERNESS

a. Probable Effects of Implementing Alternatives

Wilderness designation allows uses specified in the Wilderness Act of 1964, including non-motorized recreation, construction and maintenance of trails, and livestock grazing. Use of mechanized equipment is not allowed except for emergencies. Areas not designated as wilderness are open to a wide range of resource development activities.

Each of the nine alternatives recommends a different mix of roadless areas be designated as wilderness. The recommendations range from 0 acres in the Market (Alt. I) to 1,742,728 acres (all roadless areas) in the Non-Market (Alt. J). All alternatives recognize the existing Jarbidge Wilderness and maintain it. The management of this area will not change.

Human use, early on in the planning horizon, is not expected to have a detrimental impact on any of the areas recommended for wilderness management. Wilderness use in areas closer to large population centers will undoubtedly increase. Some of this increasing use will shift to wilderness areas with more remote settings, such as on the Humboldt National Forest. At that point in time, user/resource conflicts will become more evident.

The impacts of the alternatives on the wilderness character of each area and the environmental consequences are explained in detail in Appendix C. The impacts during this planning period (maximum of 15 years) are also summarized in Appendix C.

The harvesting of Christmas trees and fuelwood products would be precluded in areas designated as wilderness. Livestock grazing would occur on wilderness lands, but improvements such as mechanical vegetation treatment would not be permitted.

If wilderness classification is assigned to any or all of the roadless areas, those areas not having prior existing mineral rights would be withdrawn from mineral entry.

Facility developments would be limited to those needed to protect the area's wilderness characteristics and/or assure public health and safety in designated wilderness lands.

b. Unavoidable Adverse Effects

Wilderness recommendations in any of the alternatives should not cause adverse effects to the environment, but wilderness designation requires that areas be administered to preserve their wilderness character. This commitment precludes or restricts the production of some goods and services. The expected tradeoffs of goods and services is detailed in Appendix C. Not designating these lands as wilderness could allow site disturbing activities that would cause a loss of the wilderness resources. Such losses may be mitigated but not avoided. A disclosure of the effects of nonwilderness designation on wilderness values is contained in Appendix C.

c. Short-term Vs. Long-term Productivity

Wilderness designation is a long-term commitment. Proper management will maintain the wilderness resource. Not designating an area as wilderness may be a long or short-term commitment, depending on future management. Once significant site disturbing activities take place, the possibility of designating the area as wilderness is greatly diminished.

d. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

Impacts of the alternatives on the wilderness character of each area and the environmental consequences are explained in detail in Appendix C. Changes in the undeveloped condition of the existing roadless acreage on the Forest, projected to the year 2000 for the alternatives, are also summarized in Appendix C.

Mineral development within designated wilderness would be subject to valid existing rights. The number of acres designated for wilderness recommendation by alternative is shown in Table IV-16, Page IV-32. Not all of these acreages would have mineral exploration or production in the next 15 years. Based on historical data, approximately 10 to 20 percent of lands that have high mineral potential would be developed through mining. Some roadless acres not designated as wilderness may be roaded and would no longer have wilderness characteristics. These roaded acres are areas of high mineral potential and probably would not be considered for wilderness recommendation in the next planning period.

FISH AND WILDLIFE

a. Probable Effects of Implementing Alternatives

(1) Threatened, Endangered, Rare, and Sensitive Species

Under each alternative, the habitat of threatened or endangered species will be managed so that current population levels remain stable or increase. Bald eagles (endangered) use the Forest infrequently during the winter months and those habitats utilized will be maintained at existing levels under all alternatives. Similarily, suitable unoccupied peregrine falcon (endangered) habitat will be maintained at existing levels under all alternatives. The cooperative effort to reestablish a breeding peregrine falcon population in Ruby Valley will continue through 1987 under all alternatives.

Lahontan cutthroat trout (threatened) habitat will be maintained at existing levels under the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) alternatives through minimum resource coordination. The PNV (Alt. C), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Market (Alt. I), Non-market (Alt. J) and Preferred Alternative (Alt. K) will result in a slight to moderate improvement in habitat condition because they provide an opportunity for increased coordination with livestock management and direct habitat improvements.

A biological evaluation has been prepared which identifies the need for formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The biological evaluation prepared by the U.S. Forest Service is displayed in Appendix E.

The Forest provides limited habitat for the White River Speckled dace (sensitive), the White River spinedace (rare), and the White River sucker (rare). Habitat for these species will not be affected differently by any alternative. Similarly, habitat for the spotted bat (sensitive) will be maintained at existing levels for all alternatives.

The Dolly Varden and the Bonneville cutthroat trout have been identified in the AMS as requiring special management consideration. The Dolly Varden occurs within the Jarbidge drainage where its habitat is considered to be in fair to good condition. Habitat conditions will be maintained at existing levels under all alternatives with no improvement work proposed. Bonneville cutthroat habitat will be maintained at current levels in the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), Current Budget (Alt. D) Constrained Budget (Alt. E), and Market (Alt. I) alternatives. Opportunities to develop a cooperative effort to increase Bonneville cutthroat distribution into historic habitats and improve existing habitats through direct improvements will be available in the PNV (Alt. C), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Non-Market (Alt. J), and Preferred (Alt. K) alternatives.

(2) Habitat Capability

The relationship between current habitat, minimum viable population (MVP), Maximum Potential (MAX), and alternative levels of habitat capability are displayed in Table IV-4 for Management Indicator Species. The comparison here is based on an index of 100 for currently available habitat for all MIS.

Differences in the habitat capability index through the planning period are not significant for the nine alternatives evaluated. This is because the minimum standards and guidelines set up in the AMS provide sufficient management direction within each alternative to maintain key habitats such as winter ranges, reproduction, and riparian areas. Changes in habitat capability on the Humboldt National Forest occur primarily as a result of coordinated management with other resources. Direct habitat improvements may result in a significant improvement in habitat capability in localized areas, but account for only small changes in the habitat capability for the entire Forest.

Habitat sufficient to maintain minimum viable populations for deer, sage grouse, and trout will be provided by all alternatives through the year 2035. The AMS indicates that the minimum viable population for goshawk is the same as current numbers. Conifer invasion of aspen communities and lack of suckering as a result of livestock grazing will result in a slight decline in the amount of habitat available under some alternatives. This should not significantly affect the goshawk since it will use mixed conifer-aspen stands for nesting and the change in habitat capability is very slight.

Under the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) efforts to maintain existing habitat conditions will be accomplished through resource coordination to meet minimum standards and guidelines. However, these alternatives will result in a reduced work force which makes monitoring to assure standards are met difficult. Emphasis will be placed on maintaining habitat for T&E species. The habitat capability for most MIS will decline slightly. Habitat improvements to maintain winter forage areas lost to pinyon-juniper invasion or to improve riparian and meadow habitats will not be initiated. The cooperative stream inventory program between the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, and the U. S. Forest Service will not be continued under these alternatives.

The Current Management (Alt. H), Market (Alt. I), and Preferred (Alt. K) result in the maintaining or slight increases in the habitat capability for most MIS through the planning period. Workforce levels will be sufficient to monitor MIS key habitats and make adjustments in resource activities to maintain or slightly improve existing conditions. Limited habitat improvement work will be accomplished under these alternatives; however, it will not be sufficient to maintain the habitat capability for deer which shows a very slight decline as a result of pinyon-juniper invasion and loss of forage due to wildfire. The cooperative stream inventory program will be maintained under both these alternatives.

The Non-Market (Alt. J), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), and PNV (Alt. C) result in the greatest improvement in the habitat capability for MIS. Workforce levels under these alternatives provide the greatest opportunity to coordinate and monitor other resource activities to accomplish wildlife habitat objectives. In addition, there is increased emphasis to accomplish direct habitat improvements.

TABLE IV-4
HABITAT CAPABILITY INDEX FOR ALL MANAGEMENT INDICATOR SPECIES AT THE YEAR 2035

(Index of Habitat Required to Sustain Present Level of Population is 100)

INDICATOR SPECIES	MVP*	MAX	ALTERNATIVES								
			A	C	D	E	F	H	I	J	K
DEER	21	120	104	105	98	94	106	99	99	105	100
SAGE GROUSE	27	115	101	101	100	96	102	101	100	101	101
GOSHAWK	100	103	100	100	98	98	100	100	100	101	100
TROUT	20	135	101	101	100	96	102	101	100	102	101

*MVP - Index of habitat required to sustain minimum viable populations.

(3) Diversity

Diversity is a function of natural vegetation distribution and succession as influenced by various management activities. The Market (Alt. I) comes closest to the ideal for diversity within pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, and riparian communities. Vegetation manipulation within pinyon-juniper and sagebrush will increase habitat for deer on winter and summer ranges. Improved livestock management, as a result of fencing and development of water, will increase structural diversity and productivity in riparian areas subsequently increasing habitat for trout, sage grouse, and deer. Diversity in the PNV (Alt. C) and 1985 RPA (Alt. F) approach that in the Market (Alt. I). However, vegetation manipulation will be concentrated in productive sagebrush and pinyon-juniper communities which will reduce the amount of area in late seral stages. This would decrease habitat for sage grouse in some brood areas.

(4) Habitat Improvements

The most significant improvement in quality of habitat takes place under the PNV (Alt. C) and 1985 RPA (Alt. F), and Non-Market (Alt. J). The level of resource coordination and direct habitat improvements in these alternatives is nearly twice that cf the Current Budget (Alt. D). Under each of these alternatives, a program that emphasizes increased resource coordination will be combined with an accelerated program of habitat improvement to accomplish wildlife habitat objectives.

The overall influence of direct habitat improvement is small because of the relatively small portion of the habitat that is treated over time even with the alternative with the greatest amount of planned treatment. Alternatives that emphasize resource coordination to improve key habitats such as riparian areas and winter ranges combined with treatments to improve limiting factors are the most effective in maintaining and improving wildlife habitats.

(5) Special Habitats

The quality of aquatic habitats will decline slightly under the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) as a result of reduced ability to coordinate resources and initiate improvement work. Aquatic habitats will be maintained under the Market (Alt. I) as monitoring and adjustments in management are made. The Preferred (Alt. K) provides a slight improvement in aquatic habitats as coordinated management is combined with limited direct improvements. The PNV (Alt. C) and 1985 RPA (Alt. F) provide the greatest opportunity to improve aquatic habitats through resource coordination and direct means.

Riparian areas will be managed to maximize their potential vegetative productivity under the PNV (Alt. C), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), and Non-Market (Alt. J) in conjunction with other Forest uses. Emphasis will be placed upon improving degraded conditions. Riparian areas will be maintained or enhanced under the Preferred (Alt. K) and maintained under the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and Market (Alt. I).

The present condition of winter ranges will not be maintained under the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E). At the current rate of plant succession the overall quality and quantity of deer winter ranges under the Preferred (Alt. K) will maintain conditions through limited direct improvement in pinyon-juniper communities. The Present Net Value (Alt. C), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), and Non-market (Alt. J) result in a moderate improvement in winter ranges through direct habitat improvements.

(6) Alternative Relationships to Agency Goals

Objectives of state wildlife and fish management agencies relate to herd units and therefore are broader in scope than on National Forest lands. Consequently, it is difficult to relate objectives to proposed alternatives. However, survey data from the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) are compared with current levels, agency objectives, and alternative levels in Table IV-5.

TABLE IV-5
COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVE POPULATION PREDICTIONS FOR
MULE DEER ON THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST WITH
NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE OBJECTIVES IN 2035

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE OBJECTIVE - 65,700 MULE DEER *

ALTERNATIVES	POPULATION AT 2035
A - WILDERNESS/COMMODITY	55,120
C - PNV	55,650
D - CURRENT BUDGET	51,940
E - CONSTRAINED BUDGET	49,820
F - 1985 RPA	56,180
H - CURRENT MANAGEMENT	52,470
I - MARKET	52,470
J - NON-MARKET	55,650
K - PREFERRED	53,000

* Nevada Department of Wildlife objectives are tentative, as conditions change and as better information becomes available, these objectives will change. In addition, population levels can fluctuate significantly from year to year for the Forest as a whole. The data displayed here are used only for the purpose of comparing alternatives.

Four of the alternatives result in an improvement in deer numbers over the current situation. In addition, only two alternatives, Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) result in lower numbers than the current situation. The 1985 RPA (Alt. F) comes closest to meeting NDOW objectives.

b. Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

Some riparian areas and aquatic habitats will continue to decline because of unresolved grazing impacts in the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E). These same alternatives will result in a moderate decline in winter ranges due to natural plant succession. The Current Management (Alt. H) and Market (Alt. I) will only maintain riparian and aquatic habitats, some of which are in poor condition. Under all alternatives, emphasis will be placed upon maintaining or improving habitat for Federally listed threatened and endangered species to assure that there is no effect or a beneficial effect on these species.

c. Short-term Uses Vs. Long-term Productivity

None of the short-term wildlife and fish uses will reduce long-term productivity of the land under any of the proposed alternatives. There will be no effect on long term habitat productivity for Federally listed threatened and endangered species as a result of short term action taken under any of the alternatives considered.

d. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

No alternative results in an irreversible commitment of resources. In some cases riparian and aquatic habitats decline as a result of implementing the Current Budget (Alt. D) or Constrained Budget (Alt. E). Ability to return these habitats to productive potential is limited. Under these alternatives, there will be no irreversible and irretrievable commitment of habitat needed for Federally listed threatened and endangered species.

RANGE

a. Probable Effect of Implementing Alternatives

(1) Effects on AUMs

Under all alternatives, Animal Unit Months (AUMs) would drop for the first period. In the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) the drops in AUMs would stabilize somewhat after the third period, where permit obligations and grazing capacity reach equilibrium. In the Wilderness/ Commodity (Alt. A), Current Management (Alt. H), the Non-Market Opportunity (Alt. J), and the Preferred (Alt. K), AUM numbers would reach the lowest level during the second period and then gradually increase again, but only Current Management (Alt. H) and Preferred (Alt. K) would reach and surpass the initial 1986 figure. In the Present Net Value (Alt. C) and Market Opportunity (Alt. I), AUMs would exceed the implementation numbers after the fourth or fifth period. AUMs would increase and exceed the implementation numbers after the second period in the 1985 RPA (Alt. F).

All proposed alternatives for managing the Forest would change the land's grazing capacity (Table IV-6). Areas presently closed (unavailable) for livestock grazing (i.e. developed campgrounds, municipal watersheds and administrative sites) will remain closed under all alternatives.

TABLE IV-6
GRAZING CAPACITY
(Thousands of AUMs)
(Average for Period)

ALTERNATIVES	1986 -1990	1991 -1995	1996 -2000	2001 -2010	2011 -2020	2021 -2035
A - Wild/Commodity	302.2	294.8	295.0	297.1	300.1	300.2
C - PNV	302.2	297.7	298.7	302.2	307.1	307.8
D - Current Budget	301.2	291.7	289.2	289.5	291.7	289.8
E - Constrained Budget	301.2	288.0	286.3	285.6	284.3	284.1
F - 1985 RPA	304.1	309.2	315.7	326.8	332.6	334.0
H - Current Mgmt	299.3	293.3	294.2	296.9	301.6	303.4
I - Market	302.9	300.4	302.5	306.5	311.7	311.8
J - Non-Market	301.9	293.1	294.0	295.9	297.5	298.7
K - Preferred	301.7	300.3	302.5	307.6	314.2	316.6

2. Range Condition

Range condition has been determined for all of the areas suitable for livestock. Guidelines for measuring range condition are spelled out in the Range Analysis Handbook FSH 2209-21 as excellent, good, fair, poor and very poor. To put these terms in perspective with the health of the plants and animals in the environment, the Forest uses the term "satisfactory ecological condition". This term is defined as, "a condition which meets the classification of fair with an upward trend or better". In terms of land suitable for livestock grazing on the Forest, 69 percent has been classified in satisfactory ecological condtion.

Changes in range condition by alternative on approximately 1,332,610 acres (suitable grazing lands) are shown in Table IV-7.

TABLE IV-7
THE PERCENT OF RANGE IN SATISFACTORY ECOLOGICAL CONDITION OR BETTER
HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

ALTERNATIVES	1986 -1990	1991 -1995	1996 -2000	2001 -2010	2011 -2020	2021 -2035
A WILD/COMMODITY	69	68	69	69	70	71
C PNV	69	70	72	73	75	76
D CURRENT BUDGET	69	67	67	67	68	68
E CONSTRAINED BUDGET	69	67	67	67	68	67
F 1985 RPA	70	72	75	79	81	83
H CURRENT MGMT	70	71	73	75	77	80
I MARKET	69	69	71	72	74	76
J NON-MARKET	69	68	69	69	70	70
K PREFERRED	70	72	75	76	79	82

The 1985 RPA (Alt. F) provides the highest percentage of land in satisfactory ecological condition with the Preferred (Alt. K) following closely behind. The Constrained Budget (Alt. E) shows a loss in satisfactory ecological condition below present levels. This is due to the shortage of personnel on the Ranger Districts to properly manage the range resource.

Discussion of range conditions as it affects soil and water resources can be found in the soil and water section of this chapter.

(3) Wild Horse and Burro Territories

There are five established wild horse territories on the Forest: Cherry Springs, Monte Cristo, Murphy Wash (South Snake), Quinn, and Mount Moriah. The first three territories have approved management plans and the Quinn territory plan will be prepared in 1986. The Murphy Wash and Mount Moriah territories are unoccupied by wild horses at the present time.

Wild horses are managed according to approved territory management plans. The alternatives do not change the management direction on individual territories. However, the Preferred (Alt. K) proposes to abolish the Mount Moriah and Murphy Wash (South Snake) territories because of the absence of wild horses. The ecological condition of the vegetative resources on these territories is not satisfactory, so transplanting wild horses is not a viable option.

(4) Riparian Areas

All alternatives are expected to affect riparian areas. All alternatives call for some structural improvements to enhance wildlife habitat. These structural improvements cover small, key riparian areas. The greatest mitigation for reducing adverse effects on riparian areas is in implementing and maintaining approved grazing management systems. The riparian areas are protected best by either the 1985 RPA (Alt. F) or Non-Market (Alt. J). The Market (Alt. I) would provide the least protection, while the remaining alternatives are equal in their ability to protect riparian areas, and midway between the best and worst alternatives in the amount of riparian area protected.

(5) Noxious Weeds

All alternatives provide for some control of noxious weeds. Widely distributed noxious weeds such as Canada thistle and whitetop are expected to continue a slow but steady spread. Efforts at control are tied directly to intensity of management; the more intense the management, the more control of noxious weeds. Noxious weeds known to exist on the Forest and the priority for controlling them are:

Priority 1

Musk thistle	Carduus theormeri
Leafy spurge	Euphorbia esula
Scotch thistle	Onopordum acanthium

Priority 2

Dalmatian toadflax	Linaria dalmatica

Priority 3

Canada thistle	Cirsium arvense
Hoary Cress (whitetop)	Cardaria draba

In the 1985 RPA (Alt. F) concentrated efforts would be made to control and eradicate noxious weeds in all three priority levels. In the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), Market Opportunity (Alt. I) and Preferred (Alt. K), concentrated efforts would be made to control noxious weeds in Priority 1, with spot control efforts in Priority 2 and 3. In the Current Budget (Alt. D), Current Management (Alt. H), and Non-Market (Alt. J) effort would be made to control noxious weeds in Priority 1. In the Constrained Budget (Alt. E), only new outbreaks in Priority 1 would be treated.

(6) Sensitive Plants

There are no Federally listed endangered or threatened plant species found on the Humboldt National Forest. Primula capillaris, a species on the Forest, is on the Nevada State endangered species list. Additionally, there are 22 plants listed as sensitive.

Under all alternatives, sensitive plant species will be maintained. The Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) will lessen the likelihood of disturbance to sensitive plants because they provide the least AUMs.

The possibility for disturbance will not change significantly from the present under the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), Current Management (Alt. H) and Non-Market (Alt. J), because they will produce slightly fewer AUMs than are now being produced. The Present Net Value (Alt C), Market (Alt. I), and Preferred (Alt. K) will provide slightly more opportunity for disturbance because AUMs continue to increase. There is considerable opportunity for disturbance in the 1985 RPA (Alt. F) but improved management systems should allow for protection of sensitive species.

b. Unavoidable Adverse Effects

A minor degradation of water quality on some streams will continue under all alternatives.

A significant loss of AUMs would occur under the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E).

Range condition and vegetation improvement will be slowed considerably under the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E).

Various types of vegetation manipulation would impact scenic values in varying degrees under all alternatives, except the Constrained Budget (Alt. E), where insufficient funds would be available for vegetation manipulation.

Road construction and clearing of land for various reasons will interfere with control of livestock under all alternatives. This impact would be more pronounced under low budget alternatives, because less supervision would be available to assist miners in preparing and implementing operating plans.

c. Short-term Use vs. Long-term Productivity

The Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) could result in some productivity loss on heavily used sites, especially in riparian areas and narrow canyons. All existing and future range improvements will increase short-term production and help ensure long-term productivity of the range. The PNV (Alt. C), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Market (Alt. I) and Preferred (Alt. K) would improve long-term productivity. The Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), Current Management (Alt. H) and Non-Market (Alt. J) would all result in a slight loss of long-term productivity.

Over the long-term, large fires can be expected to favor herbaceous growth over woody plant production under all alternatives. This would be less pronounced under the higher budget alternatives, as more fire control would occur.

Loss of productivity would be more pronounced if revegetation was not implemented after fires. Lower budget alternatives would make this more likely, as cheatgrass could be expected to occupy the sites.

d. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

Implementation of the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), Current Budget (Alt. D), Constrained Budget (Alt. E), Current Management (Alt. H) and Non-Market (Alt. J) would result in an irretrievable loss of production at a level higher than the remaining alternatives. Any grazing impact which resulted in a soil loss would be irretrievable (See the soil and water section of this chapter for details).

TIMBER

a. Probable Effects of Implementing Alternatives

Outputs for the timber program are shown in Table IV-8.

The current demand for fuelwood is 4,400 cords per year. This demand is expected to increase in the future. All alternatives except Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), Constrained Budget (Alt. E), and Non-Market (Alt. J) meet this projected demand. The 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Market (Alt. I) and Preferred (Alt. K) provide additional supplies of fuelwood for personal and commercial use.

There is a decrease in pinenuts harvested through time for Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), and Non-Market (Alt. J) because of the large allocation of roadless areas to wilderness. The harvest of pinenuts in any particular year depends on the cone crop which is usually fair for a few years with a bumper crop every 3-4 years. The other alternatives vary in their production of pinenuts.

The large designation of roadless areas to wilderness in the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C) and Non-Market (Alt. J) will also affect the production of Christmas trees and cultural timber stand improvement practices associated with it.

The production of all timber products will be at a minimum level in the Constrained Budget (Alt. E).

TABLE IV-8
OUTPUTS IN TIMBER PROGRAM
A. FUELWOOD SUPPLY (M CORDS/YEAR)

ALTERNATIVE	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
A - WILD/COMMODITY	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0
C - PNV	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0
D - CURRENT BUDGET	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6
E - CONST BUDGET	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
F - 1985 RPA	6.6	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.9	7.0
H - CURRENT MGMT	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6
I - MARKET	5.2	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.6
J - NON-MARKET	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4
K - PREFERRED	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.4

B. CHRISTMAS TREES (M TREES/YR)

ALTERNATIVE	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
A - WILD/COMMODITY	1.8	2.1	1.7	2.0	2.1	2.1
C - PNV	2.3	2.7	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.8
D - CURRENT BUDGET	3.1	4.1	3.1	3.6	3.8	3.8
E - CONST BUDGET	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.0
F - 1985 RPA	4.5	5.4	4.4	5.0	5.2	5.2
H - CURRENT MGMT	3.0	4.0	2.8	3.4	3.6	3.6
I - MARKET	3.5	4.3	3.4	3.9	4.1	4.1
J - NON-MARKET	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.8
K - PREFERRED	5.0	3.6	2.8	3.4	3.6	3.5

C. PINENUTS (M LBS/YEAR)

ALTERNATIVE	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
A - WILD/COMMODITY	12.3	8.6	8.6	9.0	9.0	9.0
C - PNV	12.8	9.0	9.0	9.5	9.5	9.5
D - CURRENT BUDGET	14.0	9.1	9.2	9.7	9.7	9.7
E - CONST. BUDGET	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
F - 1985 RPA	19.5	12.1	12.3	12.6	12.6	12.6
H - CURRENT MGMT	14.7	9.7	10.7	10.6	10.6	10.6
I - MARKET	15.1	10.2	10.2	10.7	10.7	10.7
J - NON-MARKET	12.1	8.0	8.0	8.4	8.4	8.4
K - PREFERRED	15.7	11.2	11.9	11.9	11.9	12.1

b. Unavoidable Adverse Effects

Soil disturbance as a part of road and off-road use for access to timber areas temporarily increases soil erosion. The amount of soil disturbance varies depending upon weather conditions. Wet conditions result in more rutting and increased soil compaction. Disturbed areas are often slow in reestablishing vegetation.

Scenic quality is temporarily degraded following cutting of live trees for fuelwood.

Under all alternatives, dust raised by vehicles degrades air quality temporarily. Locally, wildlife may be disturbed temporarily by vehicle traffic.

c. Short-term Vs. Long-term Productivity

Timber harvesting practices maintain the long-term productivity of the land under all alternatives.

d. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

The decision to manage large areas as wilderness under the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), and Non-Market (Alt. J) will result in an irretrievable loss of timber products.

SOIL AND WATER

a. Probable Effects of Implementing Alternatives

Watershed conditions will be maintained during management activities by implementing soil and water conservation practices prescribed by soil and water specialists. The level of input provided will vary by alternative, being greatest under 1985 RPA (Alt. F) with moderate levels obtained in the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), and Market (Alt. I).

Most projects which influence watershed condition such as vegetation manipulation and road construction will be reviewed by soil and water specialists under these alternatives. Under the Current Management (Alt. H), Non-Market (Alt. J), and Preferred (Alt. K), only major projects will be reviewed. Identification of soil and water conservation measures will be limited under the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) with a possibility existing for some watershed condition deterioration if either of these two alternatives is implemented.

Resource inventory permits analysis of cumulative watershed effects of management activities and will be emphasized at various levels under the alternatives. Funding for inventory of soil and water resources is highest under the 1985 RPA (Alt. F) with limited funding available under the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E). A soil resource inventory (order 3) will be completed on the Forest by 1995 under all alternatives, except the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E).

Implementation of either of these alternatives would not facilitate the completion of the ongoing soil survey by the end of the planning period. Selected watersheds will be inventoried for stream channel stability and valley bottom characteristics in conjunction with soil survey under all alternatives except the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E).

Completion of watershed improvement projects is assumed to improve water quality and watershed condition. Table IV-9 shows the rate of accomplishment of watershed improvement projects. The Forest goal for water quality management is to meet and/or exceed State standards and to maintain sediment yield at levels which will not seriously injure instream uses. These goals are more stringent than existing State water quality standards. At present, it is estimated that 69 percent of the water yield from the Forest meets the Forest's goal for water quality. However, 100 percent of the water (1,357 M Acre Feet) meets or exceeds minimal state water quality standards. The 1985 RPA (Alt. F) will improve water quality most rapidly with Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), Current Management (Alt. H), Non-Market (Alt. J) and the Preferred (Alt. K) providing for moderate increases in water quality over the planning period (Tables IV-10 and IV-11). Watersheds will continue to be protected in coordination with city, county, and state agencies under all alternatives.

TABLE IV-9
AVERAGE ANNUAL ACREAGE OF WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT

ALTERNATIVES	1986 -1990	1991 -1995	1996 -2000	2001 -2010	2011 -2020	2021 -2035
Wild/Commodity (Alt. A)	17	13	13	12	12	12
PNV (Alt. C)	12	11	11	9	9	9
Current Budget (Alt. D)	5	5	5	5	5	5
Constrained Budget (Alt. E)	0	0	0	0	0	0
1985 RPA (Alt. F)	74	46	45	27	25	27
Current Management (Alt. H)	11	9	9	8	8	8
Market (Alt. I)	8	7	7	7	7	7
Non-Market (Alt. J)	19	15	15	13	13	13
Preferred (Alt. K)	11	8	8	7	7	7

TABLE IV-10
AVERAGE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF WATER MEETING FOREST GOALS
(M OF ACRE FEET)

ALTERNATIVES	1986 -1990	1991 -1995	1996 -2000	2001 -2010	2011 -2020	2021 -2035
Wild/Commodity (Alt. A)	963	991	1018	1058	1100	1167
PNV (Alt. C)	963	977	1004	1031	1072	1126
Current Budget (Alt. D)	950*	950	963	977	1004	1031
Constrained Budget (Alt. E)	950*	950	963	977	1004	1018
1985 RPA (Alt. F)	1070	1153	1234	1331	1357	1357
Current Management (Alt. H)	963	977	991	1031	1058	1099
Market (Alt. I)	950*	963	977	1004	1031	1072
Non-Market (Alt. J)	977	991	1031	1072	1126	1194
Preferred (Alt. K)	963	977	991	1018	1045	1086

* Threshold for minimum water quality standard.

TABLE IV-11
CUMULATIVE PERCENT OF TOTAL WATER YIELD MEETING FOREST WATER QUALITY GOALS BY THE END OF THE PLANNING HORIZON

ALTERNATIVES	1986 -1990	1991 -1995	1996 -2000	2001 -2010	2011 -2020	2021 -2035
Wild/Commodity (Alt. A)	71	73	75	78	81	86
PNV (Alt. C)	71	72	74	76	79	83
Current Budget (Alt. D)	70	70	71	72	74	76
Constrained Budget (Alt. E)	70	70	71	72	74	75
1985 RPA (Alt. F)	79	85	91	98	100	100
Current Management (Alt. H)	71	72	73	76	78	81
Market (Alt. I)	70	71	72	74	76	79
Non-Market (Alt. J)	72	73	76	79	83	88
Preferred (Alt. K)	71	72	73	75	77	80

Management activities which significantly influence water yield, such as timber harvesting and activities outside the Forest Service such as cloud seeding, are not practiced or anticipated in the future on the Forest. The estimated average annual runoff from the Forest (1,357,000 acre feet) may vary over the planning period, subject to climatic variations, but will not be greatly affected by proposed management practices. Management activities such as vegetative manipulation of the sagebrush-grass type, snow fencing, and road construction may produce small localized effects on water yield; however, such changes will be undetectable downstream. Therefore, water yield will remain relatively constant for all alternatives.

Soil erosion will vary between alternatives dependent primarily upon changes in range condition, mining activity, wildlife habitat improvement, and fuelwood sales. The 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Current Management (Alt. H), and the Preferred (Alt. K) reduce soil erosion below current levels most effectively, with the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), having moderate reductions by the end of the planning period. The least reduction of increases in soil erosion are projected under the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E). Table IV-12 shows average annual erosion reduction and Table IV-13 shows cummulative total erosion reduction by alternatives for the duration of the planning period. Reduction in soil erosion results from changes in management activities such as improved range conditions, wildlife habitat improvement, and decreases in fuelwood sales.

TABLE IV-12
AVERAGE ANNUAL REDUCTION IN SOIL EROSION LOSS
(M OF TONS)

ALTERNATIVES	1986 -1990	1991 -1995	1996 -2000	2001 -2010	2011 -2020	2021 -2035
Wild/Commodity (Alt. A)	-0.3	-5.4	4.6	-0.4	2.0	1.2
PNV (Alt. C)	-0.5	4.4	9.3	2.2	4.3	1.0
Current Budget (Alt. D)	-0.7	-10.9	-0.8	-0.8	1.7	-0.8
Constrained Budget (Alt. E)	-0.8	-10.9	-0.9	-0.9	1.6	-2.6
1985 RPA (Alt. F)	4.0	8.8	9.2	8.7	3.7	2.0
Current Management (Alt. H)	4.2	4.2	9.2	4.2	4.2	4.2
Market (Alt. I)	-0.9	-1.0	9.0	1.5	4.0	2.3
Non-Market (Alt. J)	-0.2	-5.3	4.7	-0.3	2.2	-0.4
Preferred (Alt. K)	4.1	9.0	14.0	1.5	6.5	4.0

Note: Positive values reflect decreasing soil erosion
Negative values reflect increasing soil erosion

TABLE IV-13
CUMULATIVE CHANGE IN SOIL EROSION REDUCTION BY THE END OF THE PLANNING PERIODS (M OF TONS)

ALTERNATIVES	1986 -1990	1991 -1995	1996 -2000	2001 -2010	2011 -2020	2021 -2035
Wild/Commodity (Alt. A)	-1.6	-28.8	-6.0	-10.4	9.8	27.8
PNV (Alt. C)	-2.7	19.3	65.9	88.1	131.0	145.8
Current Budget (Alt. D)	-3.5	-77.7	-81.8	-90.3	-73.8	-86.4
Constrained Budget (Alt. E)	-3.8	-58.3	-62.8	-71.9	-56.0	-95.3
1985 RPA (Alt. F)	19.8	63.7	109.7	197.1	234.4	264.9
Current Management (Alt. H)	21.2	42.1	88.1	130.1	182.0	234.8
Market (Alt. I)	-4.3	-9.3	35.7	50.4	90.1	124.1
Non-Market (Alt. J)	-1.0	-27.7	-4.4	-7.6	13.9	8.7
Preferred (Alt. K)	20.4	65.6	135.7	151.0	216.3	276.4

Note: Positive values reflect decreasing soil erosion
Negative values reflect increasing soil erosion

To determine a first approximation of the percentage of Forest land which provides for the long-term maintenance of soil productivity, the following calculation was performed:

$$\text{Soil Productivity Maintained (\%)} = \frac{(\text{total forest acreage - acres not maintaining long-term productivity})}{\text{Total Forest Acreage}}$$

Acres not maintaining long-term soil productivity were the sum of the following acreages:

- Acres identified as needing watershed improvement.
- Acres permanently taken out of productivity; i.e., permanent roads, facilities, mines, etc.
- Acres where established soil loss tolerance levels (2 to 3 tons/(ac/tn)) are exceeded.

Approximately 810 acres have been identified as needing watershed improvement. Treatment of such areas varies by alternative being greatest under the 1985 RPA (Alt. F) (complete treatment by the year 2000) and lowest under the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E).

Cumulative road construction activities throughout the planning period range from 3,875 acres of road surface under 1985 RPA (Alt. F), to 229 acres for the Constrained Budget (Alt. E). Lands taken out of productivity by mining will be approximately the same for all alternatives, with an estimated extent of 2,000 acres at the end of the planning period. Soil erosion rates will most likely remain below established tolerance levels under all alternatives. Based on these estimates, the level of soil productivity maintained at the end of the planning period does not change appreciably by alternative, being highest under the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E), and lowest in the 1985 RPA (Alt F). Percentages are shown in Table IV-14 and are constantly close to 100 percent.

TABLE IV-14
PERCENTAGE OF FOREST LAND MAINTAINING LONG-TERM SOIL PRODUCTIVITY AT THE END OF THE PLANNING HORIZON

ALTERNATIVES								
Wilderness Commodity (A)	PNV (C)	Current Budget (D)	Constr. Budget (E)	1985 RPA (F)	Current Mgmt. (H)	Market (I)	Non-Market (J)	Preferred (K)
99.8	99.8	99.9	99.9	99.7	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8

The previous discussion on soil productivity centers on the suitability of soil as a rooting medium for plant growth, irrespective of plant species type. Of equal importance is soil quality, defined by the Forest as "the ability of the soil to maintain potential production of native plant species". This quality of the soil is influenced by such factors as:

- Soil erosion: which influences the rooting depth available to the plant.

- Soil compaction: which influences plant species germination, emergence and recruitment into the flora on a site.

- Soil fertility: which influences plant species diversity and biomass production.

Soil quality is also affected to a large degree by plant species composition on a site. The native rangeland vegetation of the Humboldt National Forest is effective in cycling soil nutrients which might otherwise be leached below the rooting zone following spring snow melt (Jensen, 1984). Management activities which have the potential for altering plant species composition on a site, such as grazing, may reduce soil quality as the desirable native vegetation is replaced by annual plant species. Soil quality, once reduced, is slow to recover on the Forest, and usually requires treatment before returning to potential.

At present, the most appropriate means for indexing soil quality on the Forest is through projected changes in range ecological condition (See Table IV-7 in the Range section for details). As the percent acreage of the Forest improves from unsatisfactory to satisfactory condition, a corresponding increase is assumed for soil meeting Forest soil quality goals, that is, soil able to maintain native vegetation at potential production rates. By this approach it is possible to display predicted changes in soil quality at the end of the planning horizon by alternative. Table IV-15 shows values by alternative. The greatest progress toward soil quality occurs in the 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Current Management (Alt. H), and the Preferred (Alt. K). Soil quality will decrease with either the Current Budget (Alt. D), or Constrained Budget (Alt. E). It is assumed in this table that approximately 69 percent of the Forest land base currently meets soil quality goals. Further refinement of the projection is needed and will be obtained through ongoing soil inventory and monitoring efforts.

TABLE IV-15
PERCENTAGE OF FOREST LAND MEETING
SOIL QUALITY GOALS AT THE END
OF THE PLANNING HORIZON

Wilderness Commodity (A)	PNV (C)	Current Budget (D)	Const. Budget (E)	1985 RPA (F)	Current Mgmt (H)	Market (I)	Non-Market (J)	Preferred (K)
71	76	68	67	83	80	76	70	82

There are scattered areas of wetlands and floodplains comprising approximately 2 percent of the Forest. Forest direction, standards, and guidelines contained in the Forest Plan give specific direction for the management of these areas. Forest management activities in any wetland, riparian area, or floodplain will be designed to prevent long and short-term adverse impacts, in accordance with Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, and the direction outlined in the FSM, Sections 2526, 2527, and 2633. The 1985 RPA (Alt. F) will result in the greatest benefit to riparian areas by providing more emphasis to management of livestock and more fisheries improvements. Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) will result in the least benefit to riparian areas as little will be done to improve grazing management in these important areas.

There are no prime farmlands on the Forest. None of the alternatives will affect prime farmlands near Forest lands.

b. Unavoidable Adverse Effects

Under Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) some watershed areas will deteriorate considerably before they are rehabilitated. This deterioration will produce additional erosion and sediment. Furthermore, under all alternatives except 1985 RPA (Alt. F), some riparian zones will deteriorate if they are not protected.

c. Short-Term Uses vs Long-Term Productivity

Short-term watershed improvement will increase long-term soil productivity.

d. Irretrievable and Irreversible Commitment of Resources

Soil and water conservation measures have been developed for the various Forest management practices to assure that soil loss tolerance values for different soils are not exceeded. Soil loss tolerance is the maximum permissible annual rate of soil erosion that will permit a high level of soil productivity to be sustained economically and indefinitely.

The Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) have the least amount of reduction in onsite erosion, which means the greatest soil loss. Management direction in prescriptions is designed to minimize unavoidable loss and to hold such commitment to acceptable levels. This commitment is not considered excessive.

MINERALS AND ENERGY

a. Probable Effects of Implementing Alternatives

Major mining impacts on the Humboldt National Forest are caused by locatable mineral activities. Leasable minerals and saleable mineral activities do not heavily impact the administrative work load or surface resources on the Humboldt National Forest at the present time.

(1) Locatable Minerals

The right to prospect and stake claims on locatable mineral deposits on public domain lands is a statutory right of every American citizen provided for under the General Mining Law of May 10, 1872. This "right" is contrasted to the "permissive" uses of National Forest lands such as grazing of timber. Regulations covering the impact of minerals exploration, development and mining on other surface resources such as watershed, wildlife, and vegetation are found in Title 36 part 228 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Since locatable minerals activities are a statutory right, the Forest Service does not have a discretionary role in determining if that right may be exercised. It does have a role in determining which measures should be taken to mitigate the impacts of locatable mineral activities on the other surface resources.

Only 71,079 acres (including the Jarbidge Wilderness) of the Humboldt National Forest are withdrawn from mineral entry, leaving 97.2 percent of the lands available to location of mining claims.

Valuable mineral deposits are locatable and are defined as "Whatever is recognized as mineral by the standard authorities, whether metallic or other substance, when found in public lands in quantity and quality sufficient to render the lands valuable on account thereof," is treated as coming within the purview of the mining laws (CFR 3812.1). The basic mining law covering locatable minerals is the General Mining Law of May 10, 1872 as amended. The 1872 law authorized the staking or "location" of mining claims, and mill sites of specific dimensions.

Examples of locatable deposits are those minerals which are ores of gold, silver, lead, zinc, molybdenum, mercury, barite, and gem stones. This list is not all inclusive, since locatable minerals are losely defined as any "valuable" deposit.

Development of locatable mineral deposits usually follows a set pattern.

Prospecting

At this stage, the prospector or geologist uses various geological, geophysical, and geochemical methods to establish the possible existence of a mineral deposit. These methods include the study of geologic maps, reports and satellite data; field geological studies such as mapping of rock types, structures, and alteration zones; conducting gravity, magnetic or various electric surveys; and rock chip, soil and stream sediment sampling for geochemical analysis. All these methods cause little, if any, surface disturbance. All or few of these steps may be used in the prospecting stage.

Claim Staking

Claim staking or "location" should take place after a discovery has been made. In usual practice, when a company has defined an area of interest in which they plan to conduct detailed work, claims are located over the area. Often large areas will be staked by companies to "tie-up" the ground until a complete evaluation can be made. Small companies or individual prospectors tend to stake fewer claims, probably as a function of the costs involved.

Lode mining claims are the most common. There are 20,000 lode claims on the Forest. This is 17 percent of the Humboldt National Forest administered lands. Lode claims are not to exceed 1500 feet in length and 600 feet in width. Lodes are 21 acres. The boundaries of the claim are usually marked on the ground by posts or rock cairns. Lode claims are meant to cover deposits of rock in place. As many claims as necessary to cover the mineral deposit may be staked.

A placer claim cannot exceed 20 acres for one claimant. However, an association of two claimants may locate 40 acres, three may locate 60 acres and so on up to a maximum of 160 acres with an association of eight persons. As many claims as necessary to cover the mineral deposit may be staked. Claim boundaries in most cases must conform to the United States Cadastral Survey legal subdivisions. There are relatively few placer claims on the Humboldt National Forest.

Mill site claims are staked on non-mineralized land for the erection of mills to process ore from claims associated with the mill or to process ore from other claims. Mill sites are five acres in size and may be located by legal subdivision or metes and bounds. As many mill sites may be staked as are reasonably needed for the mill operation. There are few mill site claims on the Humboldt National Forest.

Whether the claims are staked prior to the "discovery" of a valuable mineral deposit or after discovery makes little difference, since prospecting and claims staking cause little surface disturbance.

Exploration

Following prospecting and claim staking, the exploration stage begins. Exploration uses various means to sample and further define the mineral deposit. Drilling for samples is the most common method. Trenching with a dozer or backhoe and sidehill cuts are also methods used to get direct samples of the mineral deposit. Underground exploration through a system of adits and drifts along with underground drilling may also be utilized.

Drilling programs may be carried out with light portable equipment which can be transported by helicopter. This type of operation is very expensive and is usually only required in environmentally sensitive areas. Surface resource impacts from this type of operation are minimal.

Truck mounted drilling equipment and supply vehicles are the most common exploratory tools on the Humboldt National Forest. Roads are usually required for access in mountainous terrain. Roads are usually built by caterpillar equipment. The primary impact to surface resources from the use of truck-mounted drilling equipment are the roads and drill pads required. Although most roads and drill pads can be reclaimed to varying degrees, there are still temporary impacts to watershed, soils, vegetation and wildlife.

Dozers and backhoe equipment are sometimes used to make trenches and surface cuts to expose mineral deposits. These impacts can be reclaimed but still have temporary impacts on surface resources.

Underground exploration may require road access and areas for storage of equipment, shops and waste dumps. Most of these impacts can be reclaimed.

Development

Development of an economically viable mineral deposit or orebody includes those activities which prepare the orebody for mining. These activities include road building for access and haul trucks; construction of mills, shops and offices; preproduction stripping of overburden, if it is an open pit operation; development of underground workings, if it is an underground operation; and provision for waste dumps, tailings ponds and topsoil stockpiles.

Surface disturbance and impacts on other resources can be significant at this stage. Development of a small mine may involve impacts on only a few acres. Development of a large open pit operation could involve disturbance of several hundred acres of surface, several watersheds, and have serious impact on wildlife, fisheries and grazing. These impacts will likely be long-term (for the life of the mine) and may be able to be controlled or mitigated. In some cases, the impact will not be able to be completely mitigated. Disturbances related to mine development generally will not be reclaimed until the orebody is depleted. Some intermediate reclamation and erosion control work will be done during the life of the mine. Effects of development activities will often be able to be minimized by proper engineering design at the outset of activities and quality reclamation procedures at mine closure. Reclamation may include recontouring, topsoil spreading, fertilizing and seeding.

Mining

Mining is the act of removing valuable mineral deposits (ore) from the earth. Mining activities will leave open pits, waste dumps and areas of stripped soils and vegetation. These impacts are likely to be of the most permanent type. Waste dumps can be reclaimed by contouring, replacing topsoil, and seeding. However, little can be done to reclaim an open pit which may have several hundred feet of highwall. Areas of stripped soils and vegetation can be reclaimed if the topographic slopes are not too steep for equipment to operate.

Milling

Milling is the process of removing the valuable substance from the ore. Milling operations usually involve ore stockpile areas, equipment storage areas, maintenance shops, the mill and office buildings, and waste dumps or tailings ponds. Mill areas will not be reclaimed until cessation of operations. Reclamation will require removal of buildings and foundations, contouring of the entire mill complex area, possibly covering of the waste dumps or tailings ponds with soil or some growth media, spreading of topsoil and reseeding. Mill areas are typically costly to reclaim due to the expense of removing heavily constructed buildings, foundations and recontouring.

Reclamation bonds are regularly required to assure the reclamation of surface disturbed areas. However, this does not mean that every trace of the mineral activities will be removed. That is often impossible.

Ancillary Facilities

In addition to the direct impacts of locatable mineral activities, large developments can cause significant impacts on nearby communities due to population increases. There will usually be significant increases in the recreational use of the National Forest with population increases. Roads developed in connection with mineral exploration often are used by hunters, fishermen, and ORV enthusiasts.

Effects of Alternatives

Predicting the effect of each alternative on locatable mineral activities is speculative. However, there are some factors which would have direct bearing on locatable mineral activities.

One of the primary factors affecting locatable mineral activities is the amount of land open to exercise of the mining laws. When an area goes to wilderness, it is usually closed to mineral entry on the date it becomes wilderness. Therefore, those alternatives which propose the largest amounts of wilderness would have the most negative effect on locatable minerals activities. Wilderness designation does recognize valid existing rights; however, those rights must be verified by a Forest Service mineral examiner and reclamation requirements are stringent. Table IV-16 shows total additional acres to be withdrawn as wilderness for each alternative. The existing Jarbidge Wilderness (64,667 acres) is not included in these figures.

TABLE IV-16
ACRES TO BE WITHDRAWN FOR WILDERNESS

ALTERNATIVE	ACRES
A - WILDERNESS/COMMODITY	1,169,009
C - PRESENT NET VALUE	649,119
D - CURRENT BUDGET	265,611
E - CONSTRAINED BUDGET	0
F - 1985 RPA	150,684
H - CURRENT MANAGEMENT	418,744
I - MARKET	0
J - NON-MARKET	1,742,728
K - PREFERRED	268,300

Other than closure to mineral entry, the effects of implementation of an alternative can also be gauged by the management emphasis. Those alternatives which stress production of commodities or market value outputs would be conducive to mineral development and have the greatest impact on the environment.

The Preferred (Alt. K) provides for moderate land withdrawals to wilderness, a sufficient budget and a management policy which emphasizes mineral activities.

The absolute number of operating plans would logically decrease as more areas are withdrawn from mineral entry. However, these withdrawals are subject to valid existing rights, and surface disturbing operations within wilderness areas require much more administration and provision for reclamation. Thus the complexity of some of the operating plans would increase. Each operation could be the equivalent of several operations in less sensitive areas. Overall, demand and prices of metals/commodities are expected to gradually increase so that minerals activities will slowly increase. This increase may affect the negative effect of withdrawal of lands from mineral entry as proposed by the more moderate alternatives. Since the lands which are proposed for wilderness in the Preferred (Alt. K) are in most cases lands which do not have high mineral potential, their withdrawal from mineral entry should not have a large effect on the number of operating plans.

(2) Leasable Minerals/Energy

Leasable minerals include coal, phosphate, oil, gas, chlorides, sulphates, carbonates, borates, silicates or nitrates of sodium and potassium. Native asphalt, soild and semi-solid bitumen and bituminous rock including oil-impregnated rock or sands from which oil is recoverable only by special treatment after the deposit is mined are leasable minerals. All minerals on acquired lands (except saleable minerals), and geothermal resources and associated by products are also leasables. The only leasable minerals of importance on the Humboldt National Forest are oil, gas and geothermal resources.

Activities

The primary activity currently associated with leasable minerals is seismic exploration. Approximately 50 leases are processed on the Forest each year for leasables and 20 prospecting permits are issued for exploration connected with leasable minerals. Prospecting permits are for seismic lines which are on Forest lands. Occasionally a test well may be drilled on National Forest lands for oil/gas or geothermal exploration. These occassional wells have not been surface resource or administrative problems.

Potential

Based on present knowledge and concepts of oil and gas formation, there are no areas on the Forest believed to have high potential for oil and gas accumulation. The Humboldt National Forest is generally thought to have low potential for oil/gas potential. The only area with moderate potential is along the east flank of the Grant Range.

The Ruby Valley Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA) borders on the National Forest. There are some leases in this area (3341 acres) but based on the geology, it is likely that no wells will be drilled on National Forest lands in this KGRA.

There are other areas classified as "prospectively valuable for Geothermal Resources"; there may be future exploration for geothermal resources in these areas.

Availability

There are 242 acres of National Forest lands presently closed to leasing, which means 99.99 percent is open to leasing. More areas will be closed to leasing when the Forest Plan is implemented. Acreages withdrawn will depend on which alternative is chosen. The Preferred (Alt. K) would withdraw an additional 268,300 acres. Any future withdrawals will be subject to valid existing rights.

Suitability

Oil/gas or geothermal leases may be issued with special stipulations to protect surface resources such as municipal watersheds, recreation sites, scenic areas, big horn sheep habitat, streams or extremely steep slopes. There are no large areas on the Humboldt National Forest with oil/gas or geothermal potential that are covered by stipulations which would prohibit activities in those areas.

Access

Accessibility of Forest lands is usually good except in those cases where the Forest lands are surrounded by private lands. Some areas may have limited accessibility due to topography. Access will be limited on wilderness designated lands to those persons having valid exisitng rights (leases). There are some scattered areas with "No Surface Occupancy" limitations, but these acreages are ususally small or in areas of extremely low potential for oil/gas or geothermal development.

(Geologic Potential/Access Constraints)

A matrix was not developed to display the effects of each alternative on leasable minerals for the following reasons:

- The oil/gas potential on the Humboldt National Forest is low except for the east flank on the Grant Range which has moderate potential (50,000 acres).

- Leasable mineral activities on the Humboldt National Forest are low level; 307,500 acres of leases or 12 percent of the Humboldt National Forest.

- Access restrictions are minimal.

- Approximately 99.9 percent of the Humboldt National Forest is open to leasing.

- A matrix display would merely display the effects of wilderness withdrawals.

Briefly, leasable mineral/energy activities are presently very unrestricted on the Forest and the potential for oil/gas and geothermal is generally low (with a few exceptions). Future limitations hinge primarily on the acreages withdrawn for wilderness under the various alternatives. Table IV-16 shows the acres to be withdrawn under the various alternatives.

Effects of Alternatives

As discussed under "Locatable Minerals" above, the alternative which proposes no wilderness land withdrawals, Market (Alt. I), would allow the maximum development of leasable minerals. Under this alternative, leasable activities would remain at the present level. The Non-Market (Alt. J) proposes over 1.0 million acres of wilderness withdrawals and would likely decrease leasable activities by 50 percent. The Preferred (Alt. K) proposes approximately 268,300 acres of wilderness withdrawals. Since these areas have low oil/gas potential, the effect on leasable activities is expected to be slight.

Surface resource impacts will be minimal since the primary activities are and will continue to be seismic exploration and drilling of an occasional well.

(3) Salable Materials

Sale of common variety materials such as sand, gravel, fill materials, and stone is expected to continue on a small basis. Permits for sand, gravel and stone number five per year. There is such an abundance of sand/gravel throughout the state, that no major needs from National Forests lands are anticipated.

Effects of Alternatives

Since the saleable materials program is miniscule, any alternative will not have much effect on the program. There are so many locations available for the production of sand, gravel or stone that if the effects of any alternative were to eliminate a producing operation, the operation could easily be relocated.

b. Unavoidable Adverse Effects

Development of locatable minerals resources, leasable minerals resources or saleable materials sites usually involves some surface disturbing activities. Exploration and development activities often include roads for access, removal of vegetation, stripping of soils, dumping of waste rock, erosion, loss of livestock forage, loss of wildlife and fish habitat, impacts to cultural resources and recreation opportunities. Many of the impacts can be mitigated, but in some cases total control of adverse impacts cannot be controlled. The mining regulations call for "mitigation" of adverse impacts and do not specify that adverse impacts cannot take place.

It is usually unavoidable for some erosion to occur when the surface is disturbed. Cumulative impacts to wildlife and fish may be significant over the lifetime of several large projects. Although there are usually adverse impacts associated with these activities, most of the impacts can be lessened by good project planning (for example, avouding riparian areas) or by quality reclamation at the closure of a project. Most adverse impacts are temporary and do not inflict permanent damage on the environment, when there is good project administration by the Forest Service and mining companies.

Minerals/energy activities often open up areas to the public and ORV enthusiasts. These new activities will add to the impact but do provide new dispersed recreation opportunities.

Socio-economic effects may be adverse to local small communities because of the influx of new workers associated with major minerals/energy developments.

Those alternatives which emphasize the production of commodities and have minimal land withdrawals will have the smallest impact on minerals/energy activities. These alternatives will also have the largest adverse impact. Alternatives with large land withdrawals and management empahsis on non-market values would tend to result in fewer adverse impacts. The relationship is not linear since the minerals/energy potential of wilderness proposed lands may not be uniformly proportional to lands not withdrawn for wilderness. The Market (Alt. I) with no withdrawals and a commodity emphasis, would result in greater impacts. The Non-Market (Alt. J) with large withdrawals and non-market emphasis would reduce adverse impacts.

c. Short-term Uses vs. Long-term Productivity

Minerals and energy developments are relatively short-term. Most adverse impacts and surface disturbances can be reclaimed to a certain extent with existing technology and regulations; however, an alternative which provides a sufficient budget to properly staff the minerals program is necessary. The current budget funds the minerals program at a minimal level. Any lower budget would not allow for sufficient staffing to do a quality administrative job.

Minerals/energy extraction is also relatively short-term in that most major mines do not have a life beyond 25 years. Oil/gas wells may produce that long and geothermal wells may produce even longer. But, in general, the surface resource impacts can be mitigated/reclaimed within a relatively short time. Impacts or damage to wildlife populations and fish may be minimal, may take many years to be reversed, or may never be mitigated. Usually, catastrophic (long-term) damage to resources, such as killing of a T&E fish species by stream pollution, can be avoided by good engineering design and quality project administration by Forest Service personnel.

Long-term productivity of surface resources can be restored or improved in most cases when reclamation provides forage that is more palatable to cattle than what was originally present. Wildlife habitat improvement projects can be incorporated into reclamation efforts by providing water holes and ponds in areas having only subsurface water.

In the area of open pits or large rock waste dumps, long-term productivity is likely to be impaired. Some reclamation can be accomplished on waste dumps where the slopes are gentle enough to hold soil and water. With steep waste rock dump faces and open pit highwalls it is unlikely that significant restoration of vegetation habitat can occur.

Spills of chemicals and wastes can impair the long-term productivity of a project area. The possibility of pollutant spills will be provided for during project design to reduce any long term impact, should a spill occur.

Lands

Locatable mineral activities can have long-term effects on land ownership since the lands can be patented and transferred into private ownership. This is likely to happen on only a small percentage of the National Forest System lands since a mineral patent appplication must meet strict evaluation criteria and the areas involved are usually not extensive. Some mining claims have surface rights which imply more control of surface utilization. The primary impact of locatable minerals development and mining activities is to tie up use of lands during the production period. Less than 1 percent of the Humboldt National Forest lands are presently used for the production of locatable minerals.

Energy and minerals leases last for ten years, but do not involve any permanent transfer of public lands into private ownership. Production of oil/gas or geothermal resources could occur over a longer period, but are still temporary uses.

Range/Vegetation

Temporary loss of grazing AUMs can result by displacement of cattle, barriers to grazing such as high road cuts and open pits and loss of vegetation due to soil stripping. Most range impacts can be mitigated by proper reclamation.

Soil

Erosion will occur to various degrees in areas where vegetation is stripped or topsoil disturbance has taken place. Reclamation and erosion control procedures at the close of each field season help to mitigate erosion loss. Soils may be buried under waste dumps or tailing ponds and be permanently lost. Soil fertility may be decreased if soils are allowed to remain in soil stockpiles for long periods.

Water

Runoff in mine and exploration areas is usually increased due to the bare or disturbed soil/vegetation conditions. This will result in larger suspended sediment loads. Reclamation, erosion control and sedimentation ponds will help decrease the suspended load.

Control measures will be taken to prevent pollutants from entering streams.

Wildlife and Fish

Wildlife and fish habitat is often lost to minerals and energy related activities. These losses are not necessarily permanent and can mostly be regained by reclamation. However, if a wildlife or fish population is lost due to the activities, the loss is long-term. Wildlife displacement usually takes place as minerals/energy activities move into an area; however, the long-term effects are often unknown due to the adaptability of the animals.

Timber

Effects to timber are small since the main timber related resource is fuelwood. The fuelwood resource is limited in area so that minerals/energy activities may not come into conflict with the wood resource in many cases.

Recreation

Minerals/energy activities have displaced some recreationists such as hunters. The overall effect of minerals/energy has been to open areas that were previously inaccessible to vehicles, thus providing more dispersed recreation opportunities. There are many recreationist type prospectors and gold panners on the Humboldt National Forest.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resource clearances are routinely performed prior to proposed operations. Disturbance of cultural resources would likely cause a long term loss.

Wilderness

Impacts to wilderness are not likely to occur since the lands are withdrawn from mineral entry and leasing. If there are valid existing rights at the time of the withdrawal, minerals or energy developments could take place, but with the restriction that those activities not impair the wilderness quality. That is, there would be stringent reclamation requirements.

Social

Local communities which must absorb large increases in population in a short time are faced with providing services and facilities which may be beyond their financial means. Over a period of a few years, communities adjust to the changes both culturally and financially. In some cases larger companies supply financial and administrative aid to the communities to help in the transition.

d. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

Alternatives with a management policy of maximizing market commodities and with minimal land withdrawals would result in the largest irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources. The Constrained Budget (Alt. E), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Market Opportunities (Alt. I), and Preferred (Alt. K) will allow for the same or increased minerals/energy activities and the largest commitment of resources. Non-Market opportunities (Alt. J), the Significant Wilderness/Commodity Emphasis (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C) and Current Management (Alt. H) will tend to supress minerals/energy activities and resource commitment.

Minerals and energy which are produced are consumed and therefore, permanently committed. The resource in that area is lost forever; however, new discoveries continue to replace those losses.

Permanent losses of soils are possible due to erosion and long distance transport. Those soils would not be replaceable even in the long-term view.

Wildlife or fish populations may be permanently lost or damaged; in some cases the loss is irreversible.

Minerals/energy activities may so drastically alter an area that the area is permanently lost to any possible wilderness designation.

Cultural resources may be permanently damaged or lost; i.e., through burial under dumps, excavations or tailings ponds.

The character of local communities may be permanently changed. Facilities and services may require the commitment of resources which will not be regained.

Most impacts will not be irreversible or irretrievable. Vegetation, visuals, soils, water, wildlife and fish habitat, and recreation opportunities will be mitigated by reclamation, proper engineering design and good quality administration.

LANDS

a. Probable Effects of Implementing Alternatives

Requests to use National Forest administered lands for special purposes are received from private individuals and organizations and other Federal, state and local governments. Demand for special use permits is expected to remain the same under all alternatives, but administration of existing special use permits and evaluation of applications will vary by alternative, with corresponding impacts on resources.

The Forest has worked with representatives of the Western Utilities Group to identify future needs for utility corridors. All but one of the corridors is along existing utility rights-of-way or transportation corridors. Field studies have been completed to determine if the requested corridors are feasible. In some instances they were reduced in size due to topographic constraints. Only one requested corridor was rejected. This was done in coordination with the Bureau of Land Management which determined that alternate routes were preferrable. Existing and potential corridors do not vary by alternative. Environmental consequences of these corridors is minor. A corridor map can be found in the management area maps that accompany the Forest Plan.

The Forest has approximately 3,400 acres under special use permit. Most special uses degrade visual quality, damage vegetation, disturb soil, and displace wildlife during construction. The adverse effects include degredation of scenery and increased potential for water pollution. These impacts vary with the type and size of the facility and the amount and intensity of human use. Before a permit is issued, the proposed special use must be evaluated to determine whether adverse environmental impacts can be avoided or mitigated. Hydropower proposals have the potential for dewatering streams, causing a loss of aquatic life and narrowing of the stream channel. Forest Service claims for instream water may not be honored by the state.

The impacts of permitted special uses are not expected to vary among the alternatives. The main differences between alternatives are the Forest Service's ability to properly administer permits, and how rapidly new permits will be allowed to be implemented. The Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) pose the greatest risk of adverse environmental impact because of inadequate funding to properly administer permits. The Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and Non-Market (Alt. J) best reduce the risk of adverse impacts by restricting the number of permits issued and providing strong permit administration. The Present Net Value (Alt. C), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Current Management (Alt. H), Market (Alt. I), and the Preferred (Alt. K) provide for increased numbers of permits with adequate permit administration and represent the middle-of-the-road position.

There will be a varying impact on potential helicopter skiing special uses. Those alternatives with the most acres proposed for wilderness will have the greatest impact. Motorized use is generally not compatible with wilderness values.

The rate of acquisition of rights-of-way for use in management of resources varies among alternatives. However, the overall environmental impacts are approximately the same for all alternatives and relatively minor. The Forest's long range Rights-of-Way Plan notes 691 rights-of-way cases needed on the Forest. Under the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) the lack of public rights-of-way will result in a slightly increased impact due to concentrated public use on existing Forest access. Other alternatives provide greater access to the National Forest.

Evaluation of existing mineral withdrawals will likely result in some relinquishments. The impacts resulting from rescinding these withdrawals are discussed in the Minerals section.

The Forest is working on three large land exchanges involving 15,000 acres of National Forest System land. Consolidation of ownership through exchange allows for improved management, less property boundary and better efficiency. The Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) will stop or impede progress on these and other exchanges. The other alternatives will facilitate this process. The Forest Land Adjustment Plan lists the land exchange priorities on the Forest and is available upon request.

Because of increasing interest in development of hydroelectric power, the Forest can expect, under all alternatives, applications for hydropower permits on larger perennial streams. Alternatives with high wilderness emphases, such as the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and Non-Market (Alt. J) will restrict this use more than other alternatives. The Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) will have the greatest risk of adverse environmental impacts because of inadequate funding to properly evaluate instream flow requirements, other impacts, and administration of permits.

b. Unavoidable Adverse Effects

Adverse effects will occur under all alternatives but there will be fewer in the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and Non-Market (Alt. J) because they allow less development.

Utility and special use construction and operation will disturb vegetation and soils. The resulting facilities may alter the scenic quality of sites. Special uses can interfere with other uses of the National Forest and may reduce the opportunities for recreation. If Forest Service claims for instream water are denied, loss of aquatic life and stream channel narrowing will result from hydropower projects.

Implementing the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) could result in additional occupancy trespass on the National Forest. This could adversely impact water, soil, wildlife, and recreation resources.

c. Short-term Uses vs Long-term Productivity

Most land activities will have the same effects on short- and long-term use. A few special uses are of short duration, but most of them occupy their sites for 20 years or longer.

Any impact of a special use on National Forest administered land is usually intense during the short construction phase, but only moderately affects the long-term productivity of the land. However, a hydropower development could have long-term effects.

Occupany trespass can normally be corrected in the short-term and the land can be returned to its former productivity. However, such occupancies often are made legitimate by a special use permit creating long-term effects.

d. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

Commitment of National Forest land to a special use is usually long-term. Some types of facilities (such as an electronics tower) can easily be removed and the land restored. Other facilities such as highways and hydropower developments alter the land to a greater extent, making rehabilitation difficult and expensive. Occupancy trespass does not usually create an irreversible or irretrievable commitment of National Forest lands.

Acquisition of land through purchase, donation, or exchange is considered an irretrievable action. Returning land to its original owner defeats the purpose of the acquisition. However, changing policies may dictate transferring some of the acquired land back to private ownership in exchange for lands having greater public value. This change of ownership is not irreversible.

Special Areas

a. National Natural Landmark

The Forest planning process did not identify any candidates for National Natural Landmarks.

b. National Wild and Scenic Rivers

Free-flowing rivers on the Humboldt National Forest have been evaluated as potential National Wild and Scenic Rivers several times. Assessments by the Department of Interior in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and other agencies in 1970 and again in 1980 identified three streams with potential segments on the Forest. These streams are the North Fork Little Humboldt River, Mary's River and West Fork Jarbidge River. Eligibility assessments of the three streams have been completed. Evaluations found none of the three streams as being eligible for Wild and Scenic River Classification. The issues, concerns, and opportunity efforts in the Forest planning process did not identify any other potential Wild and Scenic Rivers or the need for further study. The Final Forest Plan does not propose any rivers for further study as National Wild and Scenic Rivers.

c. Research Natural Areas

The Forest has no areas classified as Research Natural Areas (RNAs). However, there are five sites that are being reviewed for nomination as Research Natural Areas. Under the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), Present Net Value (Alt. C), Current Budget (Alt. D), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), Current

Management (Alt. H), Non-Market (alt. J) and the Preferred (Alt. K) all five of the Research Natural Areas will be proposed for designation. Under the Constrained Budget (Alt. E) and Market (Alt. I) three of the Research Natural Areas will be proposed for designation. Establishment reports will be prepared for the following RNAs:

(1) Mt. Washington Bristlecone Pine Stand

Approximately 260 acres located in portions of Sections 11 and 12, T.12N., R.68E., Mount Diablo Baseline Meridian (MDBM). This area is located in White Pine County, Ely Ranger District. A principal feature is a stand of old bristlecone pines, which can be used to build chronologies through tree-ring research. Also present are stands codominated by limber and bristlecone pines, typical of subalpine forests in the east-central Great Basin.

(2) White Pine Peak

Approximately 670 acres located in portions of Sections 20, 28, 29, 32 and 33, T.12N., R.58E., MDBM. The peak is located in Nye County, Ely Ranger District. The principal feature of this area is a "native rangeland," consisting of sagebrush-grass communities in nearly-pristine condition, which are scarce in the Great Basin. Also present are small stands of white fir and of limber pine- bristlecone pine. This area is important in providing an area suitable for conducting research on high elevation sagebrush sites.

(3) Sietz Canyon

Approximately 980 acres located in portions of Sections 20, 21, 28, 29, 32 and 33, T.32N., R.58E., MDBM. The canyon is located in Elko County, Ruby Mountain Ranger District. This area features a rich and diverse floral component. Many types of plant communities are present, including riparian wetlands, subalpine herb- and shrublands, and alpine herblands. The canyon also exhibits metamorphic rock types and effects of alpine glaciation, neither of which are common in the Great Basin. This area is important in providing a site for conducting riparian classification and management research.

(4) Jack Creek Crater

Approximately 250 acres located in portions of Sections 26 and 27, T.46N., R.58E., MDBM. The crater is located in Elko County, Jarbidge Ranger District. The principal feature is a stand codominated by whitebark pine and subalpine fir, neither of which is well-represented in the Great Basin. Small riparian communities are also present.

(5) Pearl Peak

Approximately 640 acres located in portions of Sections 3, 4, 9 and 10, T.27N., R.57E., MDBM. The peak is located in Elko County, Ruby Mountain Ranger District. Its principal features are ungrazed sagebrush-grass types at middle and lower elevations, and a limber pine-bristlecone pine woodland at upper elevations. Some of the bristlecones may be very old, and thus useful for dendrochronological research.

All of the areas are candidates in the Forest's proposals for Research Natural Areas. The Utah-Nevada Natural Areas' ecologist with the Nature Conservancy and personnel from the Intermountain Research Station have also recommended all five areas as candidates for Natural Research Areas.

The Preferred (Alt. K) recommends the addition of these five sites as Research Natural Areas.

c. Short-Term vs Long-Term Productivity

Designation of Research Natural Areas is a long-term commitment, but does not reduce the productivity of the land.

d. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

Designation of Research Natural Areas is reversible. However, alteration of a natural area by man is not reversible for scientific purposes. Once natural ecosystems are unnaturally altered, their value as a scientific baseline is diminished.

FACILITIES

a. Probable Effects of Implementing Alternatives

(1) Administrative Sites and Buildings

All alternatives except Constrained Budget (Alt. E) provide for adequate maintenance, repair and replacement of all essential buildings and associated water and sewer systems throughout the entire planning period. Under all the alternatives, except the Constrained Budget (Alt. E), all essential facilities will be brought into compliance with and maintained to appropriate health and safety standards. The only difference between these alternatives is the timing of replacing warehouse facilities in Elko. Under the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and 1985 RPA (Alt. F), warehouse facilities are replaced starting in 1989 and completed in 1992. Under the PNV (Alt. C), Current Budget (Alt. D), Current Management (Alt. H), Market (Alt. I), Non-Market (Alt. J), and Preferred (Alt. K), warehouse facilities will be replaced between 1991 and 1995. Some non-essential buildings and facilities will be removed or disposed of under all of these alternatives.

The Constrained Budget (Alt. E) differs from the other alternatives in that very few facilities will be needed. Only those buildings needed for custodial management will be brought into compliance with and maintained to appropriate health and safety standards. No new warehousing facilities in Elko would be built under this alternative. Most of the buildings and facilities would deteriorate and would eventually have to be removed or otherwise disposed of.

(2) Transportation

Under the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and 1985 RPA (Alt. F), the road maintenance program provides for adequate maintenance of the arterial and collector road system and those portions of the local road system that are essential for resource management activities. Portions of the road system will receive little maintenance under these two alternatives, but few roads will deteriorate to the point of becoming impassable.

Under the PNV (Alt. C), Current Budget (Alt. D), Current Management (Alt. H), Market (Alt. I), Non-Market (Alt. J), and Preferred (Alt. K), the road maintenance program provides for the adequate maintenance of the arterial and collector system and those local roads critical to resource activities. Many local roads under these alternatives will receive very little maintenance. Some of these roads will slowly deteriorate and create erosion and other environmental degradation. Portions of these roads will eventually become impassable.

Under the Constrained Budget (Alt. E), the road system will deteriorate. Road maintenance efforts will be reduced and will emphasize keeping the arterial and collector roads open. User safety and comfort will decrease and road related erosion and environmental problems will increase. Few of these environmental problems will be corrected. Most of the roads will receive no maintenance and some of the roads will deteriorate to the point that they become impassable.

Miles of road construction and reconstruction are shown in Table IV-17.

The 1985 RPA (Alt. F) provides for the greatest number of miles of road construction and reconstruction. Under this alternative, an average of 7.2 miles per year of arterial and collector road reconstruction and 8.4 miles per year of local road construction and reconstruction will occur starting in 1996. The majority of this work will be reconstruction of existing roads, although this alternative does provide for the greatest number of miles of new road construction. The reconstruction efforts would be directed towards those roads essential to meeting increased resource management needs of this alternative. The condition of these essential roads would slowly improve during the course of the planning period. Some local roads will continue to deteriorate and a few may eventually become impassable.

The Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) provides for substantially less road construction and reconstruction. Under this alternative, an average of 6.0 miles per year of arterial and collector road reconstruction and an average of 1.8 miles per year of local road construction and reconstruction will occur starting in 1986. The majority of this work will be reconstruction, concentrating on those roads essential to meeting resource management needs. The arterial and collector road system and essential local roads would be kept in a safe and environmentally sound condition. Some local roads will slowly deteriorate, and a few of these roads may eventually become impassable.

The Current Management (Alt. H), Market (Alt. I), Non-Market (Alt. J) and Preferred (Atl. K) all provide for minimal road reconstruction. These alternatives provide for an average of 5.0 miles per year of arterial and collector road reconstruction starting in 1991. Local road construction and reconstruction varies from a yearly average of 0.2 miles to no miles, depending on alternative. These alternatives provide for a minimal program to keep the arterial and collector road system safe and economical. Some of the local roads will deteriorate under these alternatives, creating resource damage and environmental degradation. A few of these local roads may deteriorate to the point that they are impassable.

The PNV (Alt. C) has a program similar to the alternatives discussed in the previous paragraph. The difference in this alternative is that the average 5.0 miles per year of arterial and collector road reconstruction starts in 1996 instead of 1991, as in the previously discussed alternatives. This alternative also has no local road construction or reconstruction. Under this alternative, the arterial and collector system would suffer some slight deterioration, but will remain safe and economical. The local road system will deteriorate under this alternative, creating possible resource damage. A few of these local roads may eventually become impassable due to the deterioration under this alternative.

The Constrained Budget (Alt. E) provides for no road construction or reconstruction. Under this alternative, the road system will deteriorate. User safety and comfort will decrease and resource damage and environmental problems will increase. Some of the local roads will deteriorate to the point that they become impassable.

TABLE IV-17
ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION
ARTERIAL AND COLLECTOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION, MILES

ALTERNATIVE	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
A Wild/Commodity	6.0	5.0	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5
C PNV	0.0	5.2	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
D Current Budget	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
E Const. Budget	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
F 1985 RPA	6.0	7.1	8.5	8.6	8.6	6.7
H Current Mgmt	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
I Market	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
J Non-Market	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
K Preferred	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0

TABLE IV-17 (Cont)
ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION
LOCAL ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION, MILES

ALTERNATIVES	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020	2035
A Wild/Commodity	0.6	1.1	1.1	1.1	2.5	1.1
C PNV	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
D Current Budget	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
E Const. Budget	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
F 1985 RPA	11.7	6.2	6.2	6.6	8.0	6.2
H Current Mgmt	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
I Market	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
J Non-Market	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
K Preferred	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

Virtually all the road construction and reconstruction done by commercial users is in conjunction with mineral exploration and mine development. Most of the roads built by mining interests are very low standard exploration roads that are reclaimed after exploration work is completed. The development of a mine requires higher standard roads but, most of these roads will be reclaimed at the end of the life of the mine.

All alternatives have provisions for adequate repair or replacement of bridges throughout the planning period. Bridge replacements under the Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) and 1985 RPA (Alt. F) will primarily be funded and scheduled at the Forest level. However, some bridge replacements will still be accomplished through the Regional Bridge Replacment Program for these two alternatives. All other alternatives will have bridge replacements accomplished solely through the Regional Bridge Replacement Program.

b. Unavoidable Adverse Effects

The construction of new roads will increase soil movement, but this effect will be reduced as slopes and ditches stabilize and revegetate. Road reconstruction may result in some increased soil movement, but where the reconstruction corrects any erosion or drainage problem, a reduction in soil movement may occur.

The construction of roads can degrade scenic quality. When roads are constructed in semiprimitive motorized, or semiprimitive non-motorized areas, the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classification changes to roaded, natural area.

c. Short-Term Use vs Long-Term Productivity

The road construction programs contained in these alternatives will have a negligible effect on the productivity of the Forest. The vast majority of the work in the road construction programs is planned, so there will be very small additional productivity losses on the Forest due to road construction. Current levels of production losses due to roads are less than one percent, based on average road densities between one and two miles per square mile across the Forest.

d. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

Land now committed to use as roads and administrative sites can be partially returned to productive use. Those roads with extensive cuts and fills may not be possible to reclaim and return to production. Roads built in presently unroaded areas may prevent future consideration of those areas as wilderness areas.

FIRE PROTECTION

a. Probable Effects of Implementing Alternatives

A fire suppression capability to protect life and property from fire is provided under every alternative, except Constrained Budget (Alt. E). These alternatives also provide for improved fire protection by coordinating efforts with State and other Federal agencies and emphasizing fire prevention.

The large areas of continuous even aged fuel will continue to be emphasized for treatment. This treatment will result in increased outputs in grazing AUMs, increased wildlife habitat diversity, decreased fire suppression costs, decreased fire average size and decreased negative effects from wildfire. The acres treated are increased in alternatives that emphasize commodity outputs. These acres are identified in Table IV-18. The base level of treatment is the 2,000 acres per year that is presently occurring. 1985 RPA (Alt. F) and Market (Alt. I) will treat fuels faster than current rates. Constrained Budget (Alt. E), Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), and Non-Market (Alt. J) alternatives treat fuels at the slowest rate. As a result, the potential for large, destructive wildfires is greatest under the Constrained Budget (Alt. E), Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), and Non-Market (Alt. J) and least under the 1985 RPA (Alt. F) and Market (Alt. I) alternatives.

TABLE IV-18
CHANGES IN NUMBER OF ACRES RECEIVING FUEL TREATMENT
(Base = 2000 acres/year)

ALTERNATIVE	1986 -1990	1991 -1995	1996 -2000	2001 -2010	2011 -2020	2021 -2035
A Wild/Commodity	0	-250	-250	-400	0	0
C PNV	0	-100	-100	0	+100	+100
D Current Budget	0	-250	-250	-250	-250	-250
E Constr. Budget	0	-250	-250	-450	-450	-450
F 1985 RPA	0	+100	+250	+450	+600	+600
H Current Mgmt.	-100	-250	-250	-100	0	0
I Market	0	0	0	+100	+250	+250
J Non-Market	0	-250	-250	-100	-100	-100
K Preferred	-100	-250	-250	-100	0	+100

Fuel loading, an important element in destructive wildfires, varies little by alternative. Accumulated fuels can be reduced by utilization or other means. Most fuel management will be accomplished through fuelwood activities and vegetation manipulation. Vegetation manipulation by prescribed burning will occur mainly as a result of range and wildlife activities.

Prescribed fire from natural, unplanned ignitions will be used in all the roadless or wilderness areas to maintain the natural ecosystem under all alternatives. Appropriate suppression response will be made in other areas on the Forest based on management area direction.

Under all alternatives, the Forest's use of prescribed fire must comply with guidelines for smoke management, and will be in agreement with state and county standards for air quality.

b. Unavoidable Adverse Effects

Wildfires can cause loss of soil, wildlife habitat, timber, and increase the potential for flooding.

There is the possibility of loss or damage under any alternative. The Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E) present the highest potential for damage or loss. These alternatives also reduce the ability to continue the cooperative agreement with the Nevada Division of Forestry.

c. Short-Term Use vs Long-Term Productivity

Wildfires are short-term events. In the natural environment, they occur on a cyclic basis and do not affect long-term productivity of the land. Both wildfire and the suppression of fire can affect short-term productivity by altering plant succession, fuel accumulations, nutrient cycling, energy flow, productivity, diversity, and stability of ecosystems.

d. Irreversible or Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

A low level of fire protection could result in irretrievable loss of a resource, primarily forage, soils, and off-site damage to private developments.

AIR QUALITY

a. Probable Effects of Implementing Alternatives

None of the alternatives allow significant degradation of air quality. Wildfire produces the most air pollution on the Forest. The state recognizes air pollution from wildfire as unavoidable, occurs only occasionally, and is of short duration.

Prescribed fire produces minor air pollution. Burned areas scattered throughout the Forest, are burned at different times and under weather conditions favorable for smoke dispersal. Even with greater prescribed fire under the Market (Alt. I), the smoke could be dispersed without adversely affecting the airshed.

Increased vehicle travel is allowed under all alternatives; however, the Constrained Budget (Alt. E), will add only a very minor volume of additional exhaust fumes and dust into the air.

The Air Quality Classification of the Forest remains Class I in the Jarbidge Wilderness and Class II elsewhere in all alternatives.

b. Unavoidable Adverse Effects

Under any alternative, smoke from wildfire or prescribed burning will occasionally accumulate in valley bottoms.

c. Short-term use versus Long-term Productivity

None of the short-term uses are expected to degrade the quality of the airshed over the Forest over any long term. Since the airshed is not isolated, it is likely that in the long-term the quality of air moving onto the Forest from adjacent areas will have a greater effect than air pollution generated on the Forest itself.

d. Irreversible or Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

None of the alternatives will have any irreversible or irretrievable effect upon the Forest's air quality. The effect that off-Forest air pollution will have on Forest resources is unknown.

FOREST AND RANGELAND PESTS

The Forest does not have suitable commercial forest for the production of industrial wood. The major wood product is fuelwood which is more desirable when dead than when green. For these reasons, no attempts are made to control forest pests except in developed recreation sites. At these sites a tree hazard reduction program is essential for safeguarding the public and maintaining the Forest resource. This is accomplished in all alternatives except the Current Budget (Alt. D) and Constrained Budget (Alt. E).

Rangeland pests such as grasshoppers and Mormon crickets reach epidemic proportions on the Forest on a cyclic basis rather than every year. When these epidemics occur, the quality and quantity of forage available for livestock and wildlife is greatly affected. The more palatable leaves are completely stripped from the forage plants in localized areas but not usually over the entire Forest. Some sites may have forage values reduced up to 40 or 50 percent, but considering the total land base, this may be only 10 percent of the total forage on the Forest. Under current management, that would represent approximately 30,000 AUMs.

It is the responsibility of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to program money for treating grasshoppers and Mormon crickets on National Forest System administered lands. They are also charged with the inventory and actual treatment. Therefore, the Forest's program would not vary much by alternative except in the Constrained Budget (Alt. E) where the Forest may not have enough people to conduct an environmental analysis of afflicted areas and coordinate with the livestock industry.

C. ECONOMIC EFFECTS

The planning process specified in the NFMA regulations, requires consideration of economic efficiency as a basic principal of planning (36 CFR 219.1 (b)(13)), in the formulation of alternatives (36 CFR 219.5 (g)(9)), and in evaluating the alternatives (36 CFR 219.5 (h)).

In addition to the NFMA requirements, the Congressionally revised Resource Planning Act Statement of Policy states that "... forest and rangeland, in all ownerships, should be managed to maximize their net social and economic contributions to the Nation's well being, in an environmentally sound manner..." Further, "The Secretary of Agriculture shall continue his efforts to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the renewable resource program."

The main criterion used in the economic efficiency analysis is present net value. It is defined as discounted benefits less discounted costs, including only those outputs that can be assigned monetary values. In the linear programming model, FORPLAN, each alternative was originally run to maximize present net value over five decades. This ensured that the original tentative management prescriptions for each alternative were cost-efficient. Prescriptions are composed of a cost-efficient set of practices needed to achieve the desired ends. The optimum alternative is the one that maximizes net public benefits (NPB), defined as the overall value to the nation of all benefits less all associated inputs and costs, regardless of whether or not they can be quantitively valued.

Examples of such benefits include public safety, visual quality, concern for future generations, and diversity of resources. Much of the difference in PNV of the various alternatives is an indication of how a particular alternative provides qualitative and nonquantifiable benefits. Differences from the Maximum PNV (Assigned Values) Benchmark may be considered the opportunity costs of having or achieving greater net public benefits.

The economic parameters shown in the tables in this section reflect only the monetary portion of the analysis used to evaluate alternatives. Decisionmakers consider public benefits in addition to economic efficiency in the final analysis.

Some resources produced on the Forest were valued explicitly in the planning process; others were valued implicitly, and some were not valued at all. The benefits shown in Tables IV-19 and IV-20 are the result of placing specific dollar values on livestock grazing, recreation, wilderness, wildlife, fisheries, minerals and woodland products (fuelwood, Christmas trees, and pinenuts). These are outputs that were explicitly valued in the planning process. All output values were derived from data used in the 1980 RPA Program, the Regional Guide, or from Forest data (see Appendix B).

Certain resources were implicitly valued through their association with resources that were explicitly priced. For example, no specific dollar values were placed on visual resources, yet they were incorporated in the analysis by virtue of their relationship with dispersed recreation. Much of the dispersed recreation taking place is at least partially a function of the visual resources available on the Forest. Management activities which degrade this resource would be expected to cause a corresponding reduction in dispersed recreation activity at that location. The dollar value placed on a recreation visitor day of dispersed recreation can partially be attributed to the visual resource.

Another example of an output that was implicitly priced in this manner is wildlife habitat. No dollar value was placed on an acre of suitable wildlife habitat, yet this resource was valued through its association with hunting and non-game recreation activities. Those management activities which improve wildlife habitat were attributed to more wildlife-related recreation visitor days than those which degrade wildlife habitat. In this way, wildlife habitat and diversity were implicitly included in the economic analysis.

Some resources could not be valued either explicity or implicitly through association with other resources. Examples of such benefits include research benefits of designated research natural areas, the value to future generations of protecting and preserving cultural resources, the benefits of maintaining viable populations of animal species not related to recreation use, the vicarious satisfaction derived by some individuals who desire the establishment of designated wilderness areas, who have no intention of visiting these areas, and benefits of naturally occurring water.

Economic parameters used in this planning effort can only serve as relative indicators of the benefits to society that would accrue under each alternative. They cannot be interpreted as absolute indicators of total societal benefits. Some benefits may even be realized too far in the future to lend any weight to an analysis carried out in present value terms.

PNV is not the only criteria used in selecting the Preferred Alternative. It does, however, measure economic efficiency. The lower PNV of the different alternatives, compared to the alternative with the highest PNV can be attributed to either higher costs, lower benefits, or a combination of the two.

Tables IV-19 and IV-20 show the discounted benefits (by outputs) and the discounted costs (by different categories) for all of the alternatives, using 4 percent and 7-1/8 percent discount rates; while Figures IV-1, IV-2, and IV-3, show a comparison of the present net value, present net benefits, and present net costs of all the alternatives.

The alternative that has the highest PNV is Non-Market (Alt. J). It is lower than the Maximum PNV (Assigned Value) Benchmark, primarily because while the wilderness benefits have increased slightly, the recreation benefits have dropped to the second lowest level of any of the alternatives (using the 4 percent discount rate).

The PNV (Alt. C) has the second highest PNV. It is lower than the Non-Market (Alt. J) because it was decided that certain roadless areas should be recommended for wilderness, while others should not. This decision was based upon various issues and concerns, along with various public inputs. The remainder of the National Forest System lands were then managed to produce the highest present net value. Since some of the roadless areas that were not recommended would have had a higher present net value under wilderness management, their non-wilderness recommendations create a decrease in the overall Forest PNV.

The Current Budget (Alt. D) has the next highest PNV. It is lower than the Non-Market (Alt. J) because of the significant decrease in wilderness benefits, although the recreation and minerals benefits have increased somewhat. The present net value is still relatively high since this alternative has the second lowest level of present net costs.

TABLE IV-19
DISCOUNTED BENEFITS AND COSTS, 4% DISCOUNT RATE
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS (1982)

	BENCHMARKS		ALTERNATIVES								
	MIN	MAX	A WILDERNESS COMMODITY	C PNV	D CURRENT BUDGET	E CONSTRAINED BUDGET	F 1985 RPA	H CURRENT MANAGEMENT	I MARKET	J NON MARKET	K PREFERRED
Present Net Value, PNV	247.15	338.54	322.35	326.78	325.03	303.94	287.16	317.41	316.78	335.52	303.80
Present Value of Benefits, PVB	275.66	416.56	410.38	407.26	393.25	353.84	406.84	394.69	391.84	411.90	396.54
Present Value of Costs, PVC	28.51	78.02	88.05	80.48	68.22	49.90	119.68	77.28	75.06	76.38	92.74
PVB, By Output:											
Recreation	22.98	27.82	29.43	34.76	33.49	22.98	50.49	36.31	41.68	23.24	43.75
Wilderness	2.58	56.30	47.76	31.68	18.39	2.58	5.95	18.84	2.46	57.13	8.51
Wildlife	102.08	103.38	103.00	103.81	102.12	102.08	104.34	103.24	103.16	103.32	104.08
Grazing	0.00	93.32	93.32	94.49	91.45	78.18	99.77	93.12	95.50	92.82	95.83
Minerals	147.51	135.02	136.00	141.57	146.54	147.51	144.72	142.00	147.51	143.95	143.01
Woodland Products	0.18	0.43	0.44	0.65	0.74	0.18	1.08	0.72	0.82	0.38	0.83
Other	0.33	0.29	0.53	0.30	0.52	0.33	0.49	0.46	0.71	0.06	0.53
PVC, By Category:											
Total Budget	28.51	76.07	86.14	78.60	66.42	48.56	116.90	75.43	73.14	74.43	90.87
Protection	4.10	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.04	4.44	4.20	4.27	4.04	3.93
General Administration	9.09	17.61	17.61	17.61	17.61	16.09	17.61	17.61	17.61	17.61	17.61
Road Construction/ Reconstruction	0.00	2.75	5.06	2.95	2.05	0.00	9.30	2.74	2.74	2.67	2.86
Range Investment	0.00	4.37	4.18	4.50	3.53	0.31	6.62	4.20	4.49	4.28	5.04
Other Investment	0.15	0.68	0.59	0.58	0.14	0.14	2.52	0.40	0.64	0.20	4.03
FA&O	0.35	2.81	2.82	2.79	2.62	0.35	2.82	2.81	2.81	2.57	2.81
Minerals	1.49	1.81	1.79	1.83	1.61	0.02	2.46	1.86	1.61	1.81	4.18
Operations & Maintenence	13.33	41.89	49.94	44.19	34.71	27.61	71.13	41.61	38.97	41.25	50.41
Non FS Costs	0.00	1.95	1.91	1.88	1.80	1.34	2.78	1.85	1.92	1.95	1.87

TABLE IV-20
DISCOUNTED BENEFITS AND COSTS, 7 1/8 % DISCOUNT RATE
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS (1982)

	BENCHMARKS		ALTERNATIVES								
	MIN	MAX	A WILDERNESS COMMODITY	C PNV	D CURRENT BUDGET	E CONSTRAINED BUDGET	F 1985 RPA	H CURRENT MANAGEMENT	I MARKET	J NON MARKET	K PREFERRED
Present Net Value, PNV	166.07	222.44	212.30	215.26	215.92	202.24	187.42	210.42	209.43	220.96	200.37
Present Value of Benefits, PVB	184.25	273.17	269.60	267.62	259.62	234.16	266.36	260.14	257.94	270.59	260.72
Present Value of Costs, PVC	18.18	50.73	57.30	52.36	43.70	31.92	78.94	49.96	48.51	49.63	60.35
PVB, By Output:											
Recreation	14.26	17.64	18.59	21.93	21.30	14.26	31.28	22.91	26.23	14.94	27.35
Wilderness	1.59	34.73	29.67	19.72	11.49	1.59	3.67	11.76	1.56	35.27	5.27
Wildlife	65.36	65.88	65.55	66.09	65.36	65.36	66.42	65.86	65.86	65.86	66.31
Grazing	0.00	59.54	59.53	60.16	58.62	49.91	62.93	59.52	60.72	59.30	60.82
Minerals	102.66	94.99	95.56	99.07	102.05	102.66	101.04	99.31	102.66	94.96	100.12
Woodland Products	0.12	0.28	0.29	0.41	0.47	0.12	0.68	0.45	0.54	0.24	0.53
Other	0.26	0.11	0.41	0.24	0.33	0.26	0.34	0.33	0.37	0.02	0.32
PVC, By Category:											
Total Budget	18.18	49.43	56.00	51.07	42.44	30.97	77.09	48.67	47.21	48.33	59.06
Protection	2.18	2.21	2.21	2.21	2.21	2.18	2.36	2.24	2.27	2.18	2.59
General Administration	5.80	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	10.28	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25
Road Construction/ Reconstruction	0.00	1.56	3.22	1.66	1.02	0.00	6.23	1.56	1.56	1.51	1.63
Range Investment	0.00	2.94	2.77	3.01	2.33	0.22	4.39	2.75	3.04	2.88	3.37
Other Investment	0.10	0.51	0.42	0.38	0.09	0.10	1.79	0.27	0.46	0.13	2.68
FA&O	0.27	1.86	1.88	1.84	1.70	0.27	1.88	1.86	1.86	1.69	1.85
Minerals	0.96	1.18	1.14	1.17	1.03	0.96	1.57	1.19	1.03	1.15	2.67
Operations & Maintenance	8.87	27.92	33.11	29.55	22.81	16.96	47.62	27.55	25.74	25.74	33.02
Non FS Costs	0.00	1.30	1.30	1.29	1.26	0.95	1.85	1.29	1.30	1.30	1.29

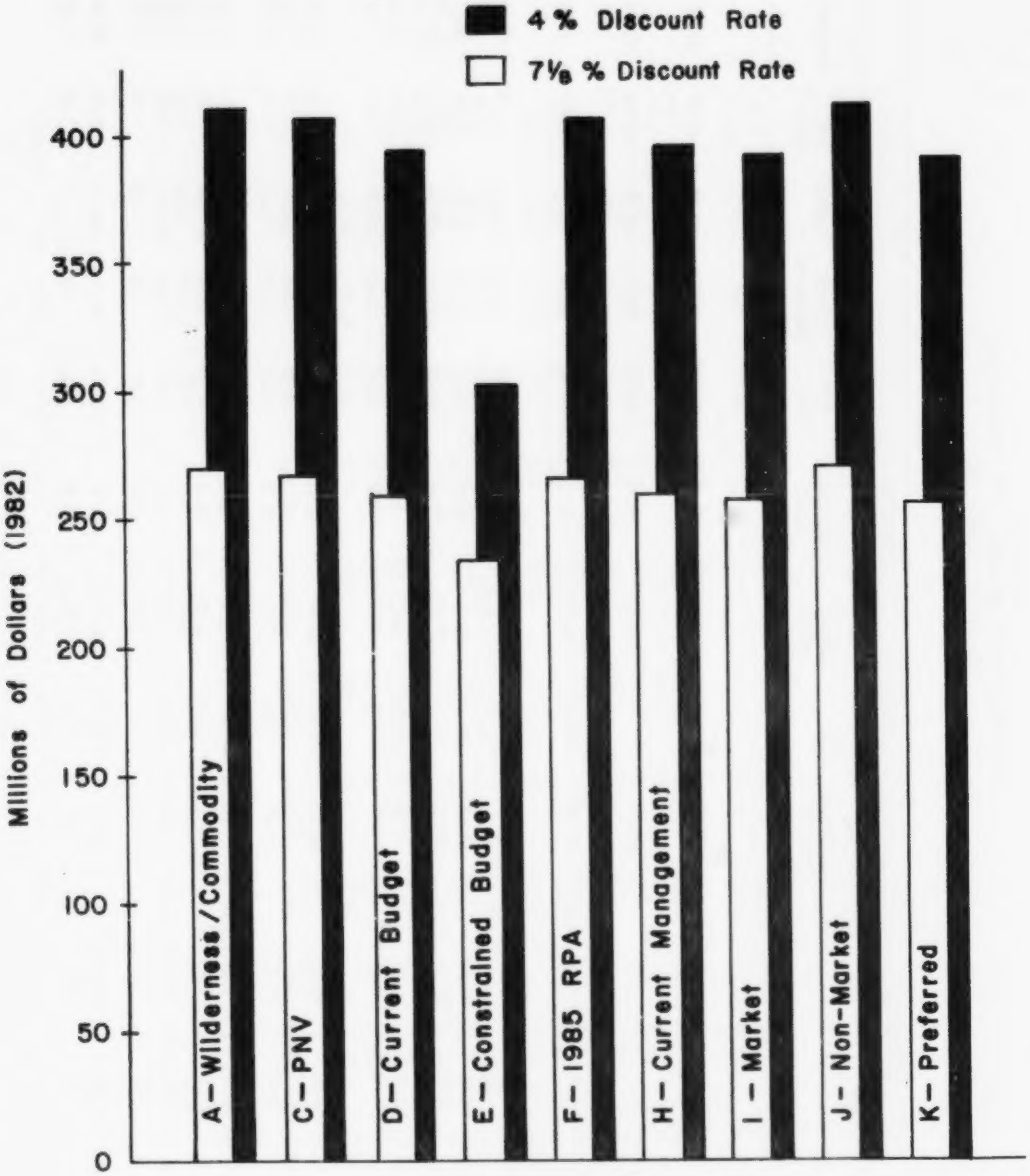


Figure IV-1. Comparison of Present Value of Benefits by Alternative and Discount Rate

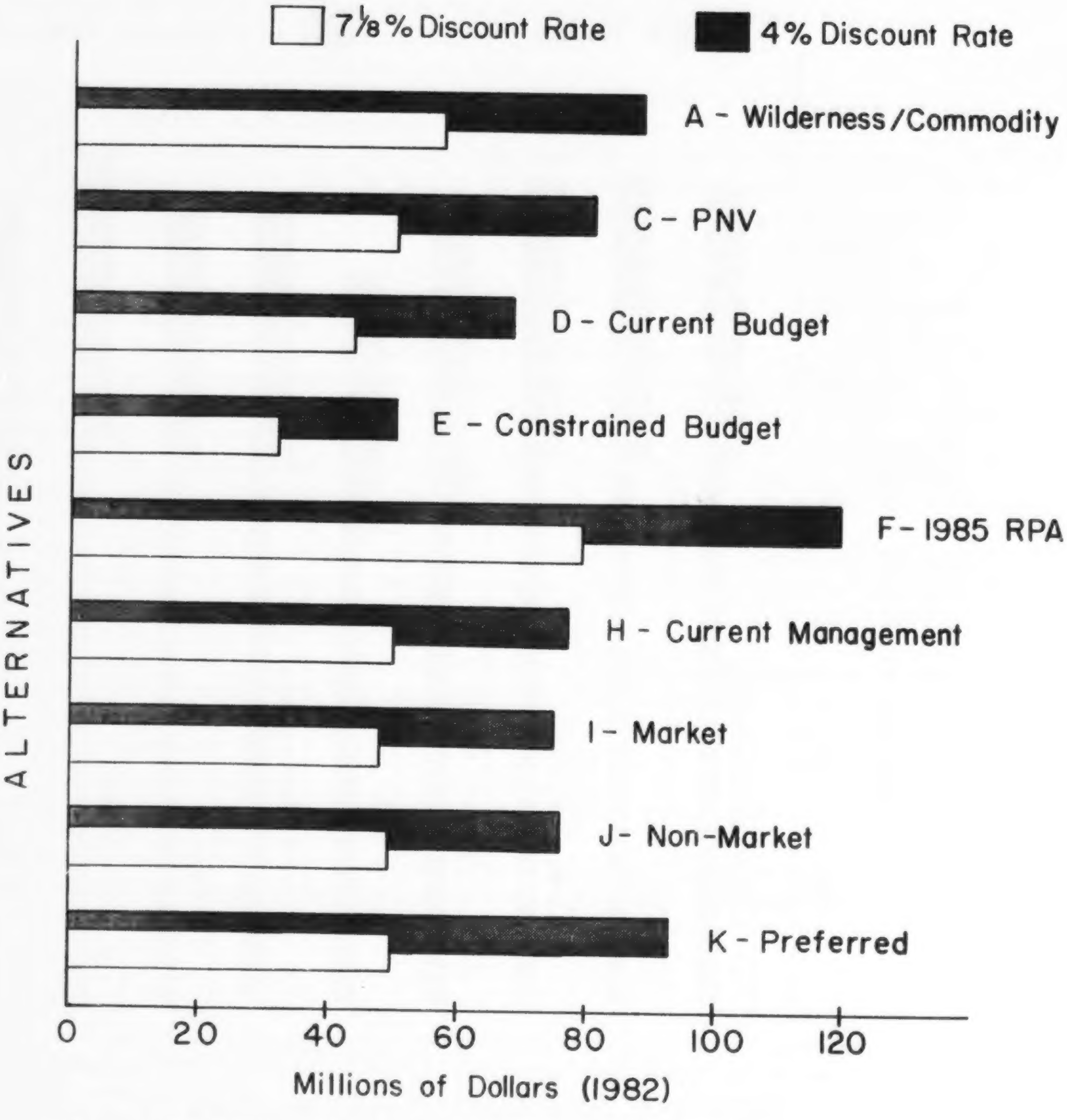


Figure IV-2. Comparison of Present Value of Costs by Alternative and Discount Rate

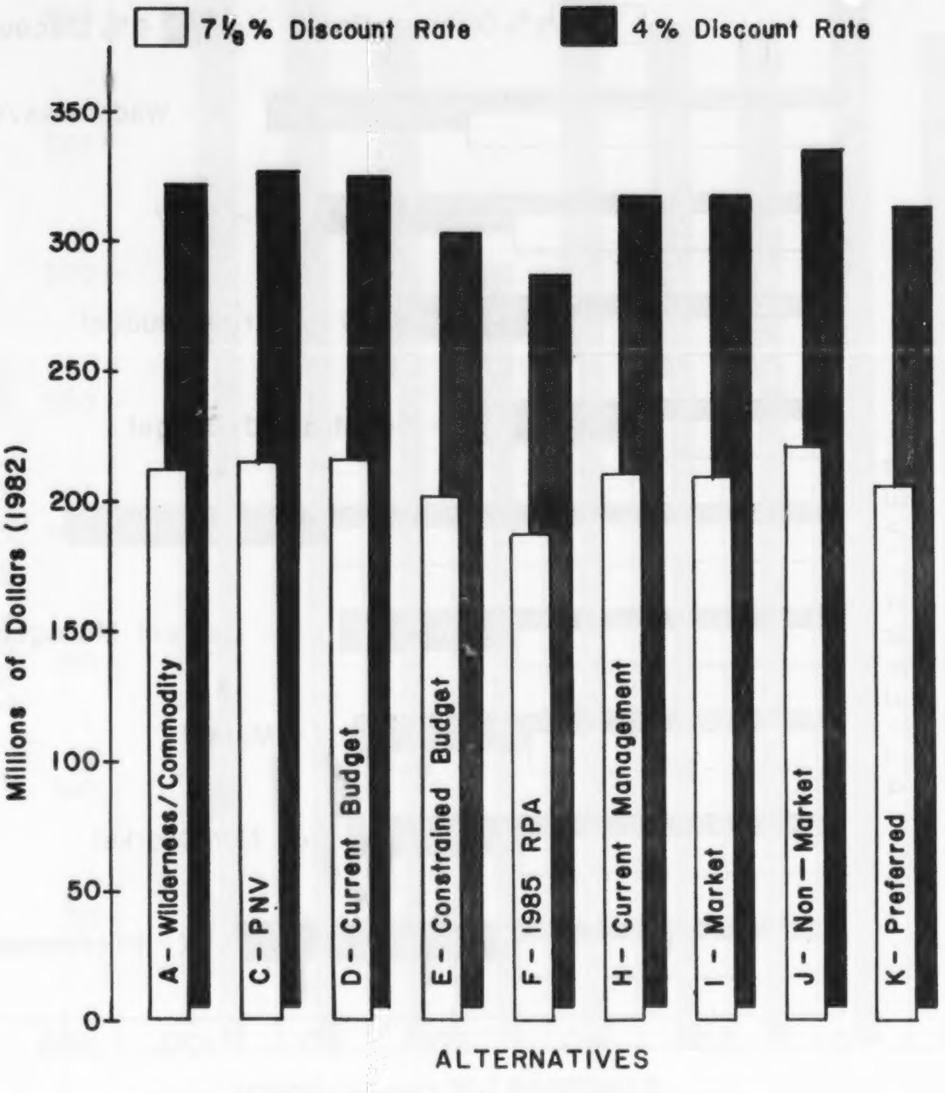


Figure IV-3. Comparison of Present Net Value by Alternative and Discount Rate

The Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A) has the fourth highest PNV. This alternative has the second highest level of present net benefits of any of the alternatives, but it also has the second highest level of present net costs. The recreation, grazing, and minerals benefits have increased from Non-Market (Alt. J) while the wilderness and wildlife benefits have decreased. This alternative also has the second highest level of road construction/reconstruction costs, and the second highest level of operation and maintenance costs of any of the alternatives.

The Current Management (Alt. H) has the next highest PNV. The recreation and minerals benefits have increased from Non-Market (Alt. J), but the wilderness benefits have dropped to near the same level as in Current Budget (Alt. D), which accounts for the majority of the decrease in the present net benefits. The present net costs; however, are virtually the same as Non-Market (Alt. J).

The Market (Alt. I) has a lower level of present net costs than Current Management (Alt. H), but it also has a lower level of present net benefits. The decrease in benefits; however, is greater than the decrease in costs, thereby accounting for the lower PNV. The biggest decrease in benefits is in wilderness, which has the lowest level of any of the alternatives. The wildlife benefits also dropped slightly, but all other areas have increased. The majority of the present net costs decrease is accounted for by the drop in the operation and maintenance costs.

The Preferred (Alt. K) has the seventh highest PNV. The recreation, wildlife, grazing, and minerals benefits have increased over the Current Management levels and the woodland products benefits are the second highest of any alternative. The drop in wilderness benefits; however, accounts for the overall decrease in present net benefits from Current Management (Alt. H). The present net costs are higher than Current Management (Alt H), with increases in range investments and other investments accounting for the majority of the increase.

The Constrained Budget (Alt. E) has the second lowest PNV. This alternative has the lowest level of present net costs of any of the alternatives, but it also has the lowest level of present net benefits. All of the outputs are being produced at the same level as under Mininmum Level Management, with the exception of grazing, which is still the lowest level of any of the alternatives.

The 1985 RPA (Alt. F) has the lowest PNV of all the alternatives. This alternative has the highest level of present net costs; with increases in road construction/reconstruction, range investments, other investments, and operation and maintenance, compared to Current Management (Alt. H), accounting for most of the higher present net costs. The wilderness benefits show the only decrease from Current Management (Alt. H) levels, while the recreation, wildlife, grazing, and woodland products benefits are the highest of all the alternatives.

D. SOCIAL EFFECTS

(1) Effects on Economic Indicators

The implementation of any of the Forest's management alternatives will create very little change in the total employment or income base in the Forest's zone of influence (ZOI).

Table IV-21 shows the changes in employment and income from the Current Management (Alt. H) by benchmark and alternative. With respect to the alternatives, it can be seen that the total difference between them is around 120 jobs, with the 1985 RPA Alternative (Alt. F) showing the greatest increase of 45 jobs in 1995 and the Constrained Budget alternative (Alt. E) showing the greatest decrease of 73 jobs in 1990. The benchmarks, also, show little effect on the local economies, with the exception of the minimum level benchmark. The maximum range benchmark shows the greatest increase of 45 jobs in 1995, while the minimum level shows the greatest decrease of 255 jobs in 1990. This projected decrease; however, is only 0.8 percent of the total employment projected for the year 1990 (see the economic and social setting, Chapter III).

The employment and income estimates shown in Table III-21 were developed through the use of the IMPLAN input/output computer model. This model simulates the economy of the ZOI as it existed in 1977, and then simulates what changes might have happened in that 1977 economy, had a particular alternative or benchmark been implemented.

While the jobs potentially affected by the Forest are selectively small when compared to the total employment picture within the ZOI, they are important to various individuals or small communities located throughout the ZOI. For instance, while the differences in AUM production between the highest and lowest alternative is only 59.2 MAUMs in 1995, if all of this decrease were concentrated in one area, it could have a very significant impact on that area. However, if the decrease were scattered across the ZOI, the only significant impact may be on some individual ranchers. The communities that could particularly be affected by a drop in the range output would be Lamoille, Mountain City, and Paradise Valley.

TABLE IV-21
COMPARISON OF EFFECTS ON ECONOMIC INDICATORS
(Difference From the No-Action Alternative)

BENCHMARKS

VARIABLE	NO-ACTION *	MAX PNV ASSIGN	MAX PNV MARKET	MAX WILDR	MAX WILDL & FSH	MAX RANGE	MIN LEVEL
INCOME (MM$) (1982$)							
1990	10.7542	.7817	.1808	.4798	.5350	1.1003	-7.9917
1995	10.7471	.6222	.1030	.3561	.4782	1.1272	-7.9343
EMPLOYMENT ** (# of person-years)							
1990	397	36	4	23	20	44	-255
1995	398	31	1	19	17	45	-254
PAYMNTS UNDER 25% FUND (1982$)							
1990	255.170	-92.604	20.575	-93 406	21.452	13.336	-112.146
1995	254.694	-94.493	23.260	-95.452	24.729	18.366	-107.051

ALTERNATIVES

VARIABLE	NO-ACTION (H)	ALT A	ALT C	ALT D	ALT E	ALT F	ALT I	ALT J	ALT K
INCOME (MM$) (1982$)									
1990	10.7542	.4851	.5185	-.1265	-1.9463	1.1003	.0388	.2950	.0692
1995	10.7471	.3476	.3988	-.2724	-1.8994	1.1272	.0142	.1781	.0575
EMPLOYMENT (# of Person-Years)									
1990	397	21	22	-6	-73	44	-2	14	0
1995	398	17	18	-11	-72	45	-3	11	0
PAYMENTS UNDER 25% FUND (1982$)									
1990	255.170	-89.373	-25.277	6.087	-154.395	13.336	20.575	-94.385	10.220
1995	254.694	-90.466	-27.510	6.398	-153.372	18 366	23.260	-96.607	11.050

* - The numbers shown under the No-Action alternative represent the estimate of employment and income that IMPLAN calculated as being the result of Forest service activities.

** - A person year is one person employed full-time for one year.

(2) Lifestyles, Attitudes, Community Cohesion, and Population Influx

In view of the fact that there is a relatively insignificant difference between the alternatives with respect to employment and income, it is estimated that the impact the alternatives will have on the other four social variables of lifestyles; attitudes, beliefs and values; social orgaization; and population and land use; will also be relatively insignificant.

Various individuals may have their lifestyles affected, thereby affecting their sense of control over their lives, but no one community should be affected.

The population also should not change due to the implementation of any alternative. Any additional employment opportunities will probably be taken by unemployed individuals already living within the ZOI, and any decrease in employment opportunities will probably result in those individuals looking for other employment opportunities within the ZOI, although a few may look for new opportunities elsewhere.

Of course, any significant change in the mining activities within the ZOI could have very significant impacts on communities, the population of those communities, and on various individuals lifestyles, and attitudes and beliefs.

(3) Effects on Native Americans, Other Racial Minorities, and Women

Forest policy and management practices encourage equal use and employment opportunities for everyone. The Forest is accessible to low income groups, senior citizens, women, physically handicapped persons, and other minority groups for a wide variety of jobs. This policy is expected to continue under all of the proposed management alternatives. Management emphasis under the Affirmative Action Program is about the same for each alternative. Increased opportunity and increased results would likely occur with Wilderness/Commodity (Alt. A), PNV (Alt. C), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), and Non-Market (Alt. J) since these would provide for more employment opportunities within the local economies than the other alternatives.

(4) Payments to Counties

The Forest Service makes two separate payments to states and counties each year, namely, Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and the 25 Percent Fund. The Federal government uses payments in lieu of taxes to compensate the state for taxes lost as a result of Federal land not being on their tax rolls. The Bureau of Land Management - Washington Office, computes and pays this to the states each year. Payments received in lieu of taxes for 1978, 1979, and 1980, by the five-county ZOI are displayed in the following table:

COUNTY	1978	1979	1980
Elko	145,518	117,487	121,693
Humboldt	37,177	30,131	31,207
Lincoln	4,214	3,442	3,565
Nye	34,516	27,868	28,863
White Pine	132,833	104,795	108,481

All dollars shown are in terms of 1982 dollars and represent the Humboldt National Forest's share of the payments to the counties, not the total amount of PILT funds that each county received.

Other Federal monies paid to the states are deducted in computing payments in lieu of taxes. The Forest Service 25 Percent Fund is one of those deductions. Other variable deductions include payments by other government agencies, other government acreage, and population distribution.

The Forest Service 25 Percent Fund is 25 percent of all Forest receipts received from such activities as timber harvesting, grazing, special uses, mineral extraction, and recreation. It is returned to the counties where the activities had taken place. The counties use this money to fund road and school budgets. Payments from the 25 Percent Fund to states are made according to the origin of the collection, while distributions to the counties is based on the net acreage of National Forest land in each county.

Projected payments to the 5 counties from the Forest Service 25 Percent Fund, by alternative, for the years 1990 and 1995, can be found in Table IV-21.

Projected payments from the 25 Percent Fund are strictly estimates predicted on the price projections assumed for various Forest outputs. The projected amounts listed here are not to be considered as a contract between the Forest Service and any local government unit.

E. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS

The Humboldt National Forest is required to examine possible conflicts between the proposed action (Preferred Alternative - K) and the objectives of Federal, regional, state, and local land management plans, policies, and controls for the area covered in the Forest Plan.

Research, interviews, and public involvement with other Federal agencies, the State of Nevada, and the several counties and cities affected by the Forest Plan clearly indicate that there are no major conflicts between the provisions of the Preferred Alternative and the various unit plans. Details are contained in the working papers used in preparing the EIS and the Forest Plan, and in the public involvement record. There are no major conflicts between provisions in the Preferred Alternative and the Resources Planning Act (RPA) Program.

F. ENERGY REQUIREMENTS

Evaluation of the energy effects resulting from the Forest management alternatives has become very significant since demands for fossil fuel and energy prices have steadily escalated. This study shows the characteristics of the net energy balance of Forest-based resources. The net Forest energy resource balance (net gain) is the difference between the energy produced and the energy expended in utilizing a Forest resource or service.

The energy consumption component (energy expended) includes the energy required to produce and utilize Forest resources and to provide services and protection from natural disasters. Energy consumption includes the energy content of consumed fuels and lubricants, the energy used in fabrication of required materials, fuels and lubricants, and the prorated energy used in manufacture of the machinery used. The energy directly consumed by people or draft animals is generally not included.

The energy yield component (energy produced) is based on present form of utilization of any Forest resource. Energy yields relate to direct fuel values, energy savings over substitute materials, or energy savings due to reduced need for expenditure of energy.

All the alternatives have a negative net energy balance. This means more energy is consumed in producing and utilizing Forest resources than is yielded. Approximately 75 percent of the energy consumed in all the alternatives is used in mineral exploration and extraction on the Forest. Recreational activities account for approximately 15 percent of the energy consumption in all the alternatives. Range activities account for approximately 7 percent of the energy consumption in all the alternatives. The remaining energy consumption occurs in timber and fire management activities and facilities construction and maintenance. Energy yields come primarily from range products, fuelwood and hydro-electric plants.

The 1985 RPA (Alt. F) has the largest net energy deficit, the highest level of energy consumption and the largest energy yield. The Constrained Budget (Alt. E) has the smallest net energy deficit and the lowest level of energy consumption due primarily to the absence of any developed recreation opportunities in that alternative. The Non-Market (Alt. J) has the lowest energy yield of the alternatives.

Table IV-22 summarizes the total yields and consumption of energy and the net loss of energy projected to be realized for all the alternatives. The figures are the estimated total energy effects for the entire planning period. The estimates are based on the significant energy consuming and yielding resource activities on the Forest.

The files of the FEIS working papers contain detailed analyses of the energy consumption and yields by resource activity. 1/

TABLE IV-22
TOTAL YIELDS AND CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY UNDER PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES
(Billion BTU's)

ALTERNATIVE	YIELD	CONSUMPTION	NET ENERGY BALANCE
A	4,308	126,463	- 122,155
C	4,722	126,304	- 121,582
D	4,794	152,214	- 120,420
E	4,876	120,094	- 115,218
F	5,939	129,728	- 123,789
H	4,864	122,816	- 117,952
I	5,280	126,783	- 121,503
J	4,087	124,322	- 120,235
K	5,148	123,137	- 117,979

1/ Reference Guide: Methods for Evaluating Energy Effects of Forest Management Alternatives. Volume I. Gideon Schwarzbart and Patrick L. Schnitz, Management Sciences Staff - USDA - Forest Service, Berkeley, California 94701, March 1982.

G. IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

Irreversible commitment of resources refers to actions which disturb a nonrenewable or renewable resource to the point that renewal can only occur over a long period of time and/or at great expense. Measures to protect resources that could be irreversibly affected by other resource uses were incorporated in Forest direction and apply to all alternatives.

Development of mineral resources is an irreversible commitment of resources since the minerals are no longer available for future use once they are extracted. Normally, the role of the Forest Service is to manage the surface resources to minimize adverse environmental impacts in the exploration and development of mineral resources. Approximately 2,000 acres of surface disturbances are involved Forest-wide.

Actions such as road construction, fuelwood harvest, and livestock grazing generally are not considered irreversible. Soil loss associated with these activities is considered irretrievable.

Soil and water conservation measures have been developed for the various Forest management practices to assure that soil loss tolerance values for different soils are not exceeded. Management directions in prescriptions are designed to minimize unavoidable loss and to hold such losses to acceptable levels.

Irretrievable commitment of resources is the use of non-renewable resources that are lost or consumed because of allocation decisions made. Included are the opportunities foregone that are not utilized. Forest products that are not harvested and subsequently lost by mortality are an example of an opportunity foregone. The commitment could be reversible by changing management direction to provide for harvesting the renewable resource.

Utilization or development of any one resource to its maximum potential is generally accomplished only at the expense or disregard for other resources. No alternative considered in detail utilized a particular resource to its maximum potential. All alternatives provide for a balanced mix of resource uses. No alternative results in an irreversible or irretrievable commitment of habitat for Federally listed threatened and endangered species.

H. ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED

The alternative formulation process considered a wide range of alternatives, some of which had major environmental effects. Many of these effects were avoided by the criteria established for selecting alternatives that could be implemented. Thus the nine alternatives considered in detail represent a broad range of resource outputs, but also represent a reduction of the potential adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided. Mitigation measures included in the Forest Direction and Management Area Direction of the Forest Plan are intended to minimize the extent and duration of these effects. However, some adverse effects that can not be avoided are included in the proposed actions. These have been previously discussed for each resource area in this chapter. Emphasis will be placed upon maintaining or improving habitat for Federally listed threatened and endangered species to ensure that there is no effect or a beneficial affect on these species.

I. SHORT-TERM USE OF MAN'S ENVIRONMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

The relation between short-term uses of man's environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity is complex. Short-term uses are those that generally occur on a yearly basis on some part of the Forest such as livestock grazing as a use of the forage resources, fuelwood harvest as use of the wood resource, and recreation and irrigation as uses of the water resource.

Long-term, here refers to longer than a 10-year period. Productivity refers to the capability of the land to provide resource outputs. Soil and water are the primary factors of productivity and represent the relationship between short-term uses and long-term productivity. The quality of life for future generations will be determined by the capabilities of the land to maintain its productivity. Land usage and permitted activities must not significantly impair the long-term productivity of the land.

Standards and guidelines that apply Forest direction in the alternatives were developed by the interdisciplinary team and are contained in the Forest Plan. Specific direction and mitigation measures were included in these standards and guidelines to assure that long-term productivity was not impaired by the application of short-term management practices. Chapter IV of the Forest Plan lists the Forest-wide standards and guidelines.

Each Forest Plan alternative was analyzed to assure that minimum standards and guidelines could be met. Through this analysis, long-term productivity of the Forest ecosystem is assured in all alternatives.

Commitments for resource uses are made for this planning period but do not extend beyond. The management prescriptions, management practices and effects of plan implementation will be monitored to provide data for insuring that these standards and guidelines are met. Details on the monitoring program are included in the Forest Plan monitoring based on availability of funding to accomplish the monitoring activities. The purpose of monitoring is to assure that long-term productivity on the Forest will be maintained or improved by the application of management direction. There will be no effect on long-term habitat productivity for Federally listed threatened and endangered species as a result of short-term actions taken under any of the alternatives considered.

J. NATURAL OR DEPLETABLE RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS AND CONSERVATION POTENTIAL OF ALTERNATIVES

Natural resource requirements for implementing the proposed action or any of the other alternatives considered in detail require the basic soil and water resources and associated plant and animal communities that comprise the forest and rangeland ecosystems. Lands designated to various management prescriptions in this planning effort considered the multiple use benefits and coordinating requirements necessary to conserve these resources. Mitigation measures to insure resource conservation are included in the Forest and management area direction of the Forest Plan.

Depletable resource requirements include removal of nonrenewable resources such as minerals or depletion of a basic resource such as soils. In the case of the mineral resource, once the mineral has been extracted, it is gone. Conservation of these resources might be defined as the planned rate of removal. Removal of these resources might be defined as the planned rate of removal and removal method. In the case of coal, for example, it would be the method that gives the highest percentage recovery. Mitigating measures involved in the location, development and removal of resources are considered and may be found in the Final Forest Plan. Soil depletion through natural or manmade disturbances is also considered and rehabilitation and conservation activities associated with the potential depletion of this resource are planned for in each alternative.

In addition, the extinction of a plant or animal species may also be thought of as depletion of a resource. Protection and improvement of threatened or endangered species habitat has been considered in all alternatives and management direction included in the Forest Plan.

K. URBAN QUALITY, HISTORIC, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Forest Plan requires compliance with section 106 of the Historic preservation Act prior to a decision which may effect significant cultural properties. Valuable sites will be completely investigated prior to disturbance and possibly removed from resource production.

If significant sites are located that meet criteria, they will be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Implementing the Plan will not result in the transfer, sale, deletion, or substantial alteration of eligible or existing National Register properties under Federal jurisdiction. Additionally, the Plan will not affect non-federally owned districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of historical, architectural, or archaeological significance.

The Humboldt National Forest will cooperate fully with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer.

See Section B, Recreation item (5) Cultural Resource, in this chapter for a discussion of the probable effects on Cultural Resources by implementing the various alternatives.

L. MITIGATING MEASURES

All alternatives contain mitigating measures designed to mitigate adverse effects which cannot be avoided. Some of the more important mitigating measures are:

(1) All activities occurring within riparian areas will be guided by standards and guidelines designed to maintain the quality of riparian areas.

quality from management practices have been incorporated into Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

(3) The standard and guideline requiring that a smoke management plan be prepared for every prescribed burn which complies with the Federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 and "Smoke Management Guidelines for Forestry Prescribed Burning Operations for the State of Nevada" has been incorporated to reduce air and visibility pollution.

(4) The requirement that all chemicals be administered by a licensed Pesticide Applicator is designed to mitigate the use of chemicals in high value areas.

(5) Standards and guidelines have been incorporated to protect cultural resources.

(6) Minimum management requirements for other wildlife and plant species have been incorporated to maintain viable populations of all native vertibrate and plant species.

(7) Standards and guidelines have been incorporated to maintain soil productivity and water quality and to protect floodplains and wetlands.

(8) Standards and guidelines have been incorporated to protect and enhance sensitive plant species.

V.

List of Preparers

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CHAPTER V
LIST OF PREPARERS

The following persons, listed alphabetically, were the principal preparers of both the Environmental Impact Statement and the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Each person's educational qualifications, work experience, and role in the planning process is included. Listed separately are those persons who provided significant contributions to the plan in its early development stages, but who are no longer with the Humboldt National Forest or no longer with the Forest Service. Also listed is the typing and copying team and resource support personnel.

Curt Aarstad Range Conservationist B.S., Agriculture	Seven years' Forest Service experience on three Ranger Districts. Member of Forest Array of Alternatives Team.
Paul Arndt Zone Economist B.S., Forest Management Outdoor Recreation M.A., Economics	Five years' Forest Service experience. Developed Social and Economic Analysis used in planning effort.
Dan Baird Ruby Mountains District Ranger B.S., Agriculture Education B.S., Range Management	Twenty-one years' Forest Service experience including two District Ranger Positions, District Range Conservationist and District Resource Assistant. Member of the Forest Management Team.
Paul Demeule Ely District Ranger B.S., Range Management	Twenty years' Forest Service experience including range, wildlife, minerals, recreation and special uses and six months as a District Ranger. Member of Forest Management Team.
Robert Easton Jarbidge District Ranger B.S., Range Management	Twenty-three years' Forest Service experience including range management on four Ranger Districts on three Forests and Range Project Staff Officer at Supervisor's Office level. Thirteen years as District Ranger in present position. Member of the Forest Management Team.
Tina Pennington Gast Range Conservationist B.S., Wildlife and Fisheries Science	Five years' Forest Service experience including range, wildlife, watershed and special uses on one Ranger District. Member of Forest Array of Alternatives Team.

B. J. Graves Forest Supervisor B.S., Forestry	Twenty-six years' Forest Service experience including District Ranger, Fire Management Staff Assistant in W. O., Branch Chief for Wildlife, Range, Soil and Water, and Law Enforcement and four years as Supervisor of the Humboldt National Forest. Member of the Forest Management Team.
Ron Grove Forest Planner B.S., Forestry-Wildlife M.S., Forest Science	Three years' experience with the Army Corps of Engineers as a Natural Resource Specialist. Three years' experience with the Bureau of Land Management. Thirteen and a half years' experience with the Forest Service: ten years as a Forester on six Ranger Districts on five Forests in three Regions, and three and a half years as a Forest Planner on two Forests in two Regions. Served as Planning Specialist for complete planning process.
Walter E. Hanks Branch Chief, Range, Wildlife, Minerals, Soil, and Water. B.S., Range Management	Twenty-two years' Forest Service experience including two District Ranger positions and five years as Branch Chief on the Humboldt National Forest. Member of the Forest Interdisciplinary Team and the Forest Management Team.
Lars F. Lind Administrative Officer	Six years' Forest Service experience including Administrative Assistant, Budget and Accounting Officer, and Administrative Officer on the Humboldt National Forest for one year. Member of the Forest Management Team.
George C. Martinez Mountain City District Ranger B.S., Range Management	Fourteen years' Forest Service experience including Regional Office Range Management and Range, Wildlife, Watershed Staff at the Ranger District level. Six months experience as a District Ranger. Member of the Forest Management Team.
Robert Mason Assistant Forest Planner B.S., Wildlife - Range M.S., Wildlife Management	Eight years' Forest Service experience including planning, range, wildlife, watershed, special use and minerals on one Ranger District and two Forest Supervisor Offices. Team leader for Array of Alternatives and member of Forest Interdisciplinary Team.

Donna Nyrehn Range Conservationist B.S., Agriculture	Seven years' Forest Service experience on two Ranger Districts on two Forests. Member of the Public Comments Response and Standards and Guidelines Teams.
Gary Schaffran Branch Chief, Recreation Lands, Timber, and Fire B.S., Forestry	Twenty years' Forest Service experience including six Ranger Districts, One National Recreation Area and one Forest Supervisor's Office. Member of the public issues group, member of the Forest Interdisciplinary Team and Forest Management Team.
Norbert W. Smith, P.E. Forest Engineer B.S., Civil Engineering	Nineteen years' Forest Service experience including Regional Technical Specialist in Sanitation Systems, Staff Engineer and four years as Forest Engineer on the Humboldt National Forest. Member of the Forest Management Team.
Marvin R. Turner Santa Rosa District Ranger B.S., Range Management	Seventeen years' Forest Service experience experience including District Range Conservationist and District Ranger. Member of the Forest Management Team.
Steve Wernsing Planning Analyst B.S., Aquatic Ecology	Six years' Forest Service experience including Forest Fisheries Biologist and Forest Planning Analyst. Responsible for interpretation and manipulation of FORPLAN data. Member of the Forest Interdisciplinary Team.
Bonnie Whalen Forestry Technician	Fifteen years' Forest Service experience including EEO Specialist Regional Office Engineering Technician - Contract inspection, engineering technician - surveying and forestry technician - fire. Team leader for public involvement process. Responsible for Forest Plan graphics.

CONTRIBUTORS NO LONGER WITH THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

Terrence J. Cox, Forest Planner, Forest Management Team. Now with the Pacific Southwest Regional Office.

John Erickson, Wildlife Biologist, Forest Interdisciplinary Team. Now with Forest Service, Tongass Ketchikan area.

Katherine Foster, Forest Hydrologist, Forest Interdisciplinary Team. Now with the San Bernardino National Forest.

Herbert C. Holthoff, Jr. P.E., Forest Interdisciplinary Team, Forest DEIS Team. Now with Pike and San Isabel National Forest.

Mark Jensen, Soil Scientist, Forest Interdisciplinary Team. Now with the Northern Region Regional Office.

Warren Kelly, Forest Wildlife Biologist, Forest Interdisciplinary Team, Retired.

David R. Kimpton, District Ranger Mountain City District, Forest Management Team. Resigned from the Forest Service.

Blaine G. Molyneaux, Forest Soil Scientist, Forest Interdisciplinary Team. Now with the Intermountain Region Regional Office.

Richard Schuette, Assistant Forest Planner, Member of Forest Interdisciplinary Team. Resigned from the Forest Service.

Jill Steward, Assistant Forest Planner, Member of the Forest Interdisciplinary Team. Resigned from the Forest Service.

Sally Sullivan, Forest Administrative Officer, Member of the Forest Management Team. Now with the Payette National Forest.

Jim Voss, Zone Geologist, Member of the Forest Interdisciplinary Team. Now with the Eldorado National Forest.

Jack Wilcox, District Ranger Ely District, Forest Management Team. Retired.

RESOURCE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE FOLLOWING

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TYPING AND COPY TEAM

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VI.

Consultation and List of Agencies, Organizations, and Persons to Whom Copies of the Statement are Sent

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CHAPTER VI

CONSULTATION AND LIST OF AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PERSONS TO WHOM COPIES OF THE STATEMENT ARE SENT

OVERVIEW

This chapter discusses efforts to involve and consult with a variety of publics during formulation of the proposed Plan and draft EIS. It also lists and responds to comments received during the public comment period for the proposed Plan and draft EIS.

The first section of this chapter, CONSULTATION WITH OTHERS BETWEEN THE DRAFT AND FINAL EIS, summarizes public involvement efforts undertaken throughout the planning effort comment period. It also summarizes the general tone of responses received regarding the proposed Plan and draft EIS.

The second section, PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIS AND PROPOSED FOREST PLAN AND FOREST SERVICE RESPONSES, contains all comments or summaries of comments received and Forest Service responses thereto. Comments with a similar theme have been grouped and one response prepared for them. The remaining letters have been answered individually. The list at the beginning of the section can be used to find any comment submitted.

The third section of the chapter, MAILING LIST, lists all those to whom copies of this statement have been sent. The list was composed in response to direction from the Forest Service Manual, requests for copies, and those who commented on the proposed Plan and draft EIS.

The Forest Service has conducted an active public involvement program throughout the Forest Planning process as directed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Federal, State, and local government agencies have been informed and consulted. Individual Forest users and interest groups have also had an opportunity to participate.

Prior to publication of the proposed Plan and draft EIS, newletters, personal contacts by individual Rangers and Forest staffs, and meetings with various interest groups were used to give people opportunities to review issues and concerns and preliminary alternatives.

CONSULTATION WITH OTHERS BETWEEN THE DRAFT AND FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

Summary of Public Participation Activities

The Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register. The proposed Plan and draft EIS were filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and made available to the public on June 28, 1985. News releases were also prepared for the media in Elko, Ely, Las Vegas, Reno, Wells, Winnemucca, Nevada; Buhl, Idaho; and Bishop, Bridgeport, Sacramento, South Lake Tahoe, California. About 800 copies of the Overview, DEIS, Forest Plan, and Map Package were distributed to people and organizations on the Forest Plan mailing list.

The deadline for submission of written comments was September 30, 1985. The schedule for preparation of the Forest Plan and the Final Environmental Impact Statement was such that it was possible to include all written comments received by October 18, 1985, even though they were received after the comment period closed.

During the month of August, 1985 open houses were held at all Ranger District Offices and the Forest Supervisor's Office to present the proposed Plan to the public and to answer any questions. Also, meetings were held with special interest groups to discuss the Plan. Records of those meetings and open houses are available at the Forest Supervisor's Office, 976 Mountain City Highway, Elko, Nevada 89801.

ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES

A total of 212 responses were received. Most responses dealt with a massive wildernress interest campaign. Many of the comments discussed several items. One response may have discussed such items as wildlife, wilderness or recreation. The following table is a summary of responses by item in descending order.

RESOURCE	% OF TOTAL
Wilderness	94
Wildlife/Fish (Including riparian areas)	31
Bristlecone pine	24
Roads	21
Recreation	15
Range	12
Minerals	8
Trails	4
Landownership	3
Water	3
Other	3
Special Areas	2
T & E Species	2
Cultural	1
Economics	1
Wild & Scenic Rivers	<1
Special Uses	<1
Fuelwood	<1
Administration	<1
Air Management	<1

The 212 responses can be divided into the following categories:

Area of Response		
Nevada	107	51%
California	93	44%
Other States	12	5%

Who Responded

Individual	153
Commodity Interests	25
Conservation/Environmental Groups	16
Public Agencies - State	11
Public Agencies - Federal	5
Outfitter Permittees	2
Special Uses Permittees	1
Forest Service Individuals	1
Professional Societies	1
Elected Officials - Local	1
Civic Groups	1
Minority Groups	1
Academic Groups	1

All of the public comments and responses are located in the second section of of this chapter.

A Content Summary Analysis was conducted by the Humboldt National Forest Management Team and planning shop. This content analysis summary and the original copies of the public comments are contained in the process records located in the Forest Supervisor's Office.

The public comments to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Land and Management Plan - Humboldt National Forest and the Proposed Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan were analysed and broken down in the following categories.

1. Wilderness
2. Wildlife/Fish/Riparian
3. Recreation
4. Minerals
5. Special Uses
6. Bristlecon Pine
7. Fuelwood
8. Range
9. Special Areas
10. Cultural Resources
11. Roads
12. Trails
13. Lands
14. Water
15. Threatened and Endangered Species
16. Economics
17. Air Management
18. Planning and General Comments

SUMMARY OF MAJOR AREAS OF CONCERN

Wilderness Management

The wilderness issue on the Humboldt generated the most response from the public. Ninety-four per cent of the public comments dealt with the wilderness issue. Over 80% of the wilderness comments either asked for designation of new areas or an enlargement of areas recommended for wilderness designation. Major issues raised other than designation or enlargement of particular areas, was the sufficiency of Appendix C with regards to meeting the RARE requirements, lack of understanding of why certain roadless areas were not recommended for designation, opposition to designation of areas due to mineral potential and opposition to designation as it would forestall multiple use management.

Wildlife/Fish/Riparian Areas

The following areas were raised as being important within this issue: (1) management emphasis for wildlife/fish/riparian areas was too low, (2) management direction standards and guidelines for wildlife/fish/riparian areas need to be strengthened and supported, (3) reference to other wildlife plans (State), and (4) diversity of the habitat.

Bristlecone Pine

Major concerns centered around two items: (1) support by the Forest Service for adherence to standards and guidelines identified for the management of bristlecone pine and (2) a more active role by the Forest Service in providing legal protection for the bristlecone pine.

Roads

The major concerns that were expressed dealt with the construction of roads in or near roadless areas.

Recreation

The trail system, on the Humboldt, generated some interest from the public. Items discussed were the maintenance of the trail system, location of the existing trails and the amount of new construction that would take place. As with wildlife many public comments expressed concern regarding the low management emphasis placed on recreation.

Range

Major concerns centered around: (1) the decrease of AUMs within the middle portion of the planning horizon and (2) the impacts and protection required to other resources from grazing use.

Minerals

The designation of wilderness areas and the effects on mineral development generated the most interest. Other items mentioned included: (1) inclusion of costs and benefits for minerals within the DEIS and (2) the mineral analysis completed in the DEIS.

LIST OF PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND AGENCIES WHO COMMENTED

The following persons, organizations, and agencies provided comment on the draft EIS and Forest Plan. They are listed in alphabetical order:

NAME	ORGANIZATION	COMMENT NUMBER
Stephen Alastuey		208
Ken Ambrose		163
Judith Anderson		192
Barbara L. Baer		30
Gary and Betty Ball		72
Andrew Barbieri		200
Marcel Barel		58
Louise Bayard-de-Vole		72
Sharon Bebsher		200
Lou Becera		64
Kathaleen B. Bell		128
James Bigelow		207
E. Fred Birdsall	Conoco Inc.	2
Bob Bismo		162
Bruce Blackada		144
Rosalyn Blaylock		200
Mary Bogard		92
Pat Boomer		36
J. S. Borrow		187
Paul Bottari		122
George R. E. Boucher	Board of County Commissioners Elko County	46
Andrew Bowers		118
David Bowers		161
Pete Bradley		203
J. S. Dover		137
Jim Brauer		139
Ann Brauer		141
George Bridges		93
Bill Broeckel		82
Pamela Brook		200
John D. Brotherson		200
Nancy A. Buada		25
Edward Burtis		65
Russell D. Butcher	National Parks & Conservation Assoc.	8
Jack L. Byron	Sierra Pacific Company	7
Ed Carroll		138
Carolynn Chann		15
Leonard J. Choate		38
Cheri Cinkaske		130
Carolyn Clark		22
Cordon and Christine Cohen		96
Elaine Conrad		117
Pamela Gene Crosby, P.E.	Chilton Engineering	188
Elsa Crumpley		47

Harold and Cynthia Cunningham		103
Kathleen Curtis		75
Rene Dalaney		200
Joe L. Danni	Homestake Mining Co.	10
Karen Dates		200
Lauren Davis		145
Bill Davis		175
JoAnn Deluca		200
Donald J. Devoto		80
Harrold L. Dittner		32
Geneva S. Douglas	Friends of Nevada Wilderness	35
Tom Dragan		50
Gregory P. Edner		195
David and Dennis Eldridge		133
Vicki Fallon		29
Ellen Faryna		173
Mike Flinn		159
Betty and Cindy Follis		56
Jean Ford		100
Mare Francis		127
Milton Frick		33
Robert Furtek		55
Cliff Gardner	Elko County Farm Bureau	132
M. J. Gast		11
Teri Gerber		51
A. Grant Gerber		88, 169
Dennis Ghiglieri		204
Sharon Giaconiazzi		64
Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Gibb		147
Rose & Gold & Gold		123
Brion Green		134
Norman P. Gregas		5
Luca Griffith		200
Charles K. Growdon		29
Ann de Gruchy		64
John de Gruchy		64
Ron Guenther	Sierra Club Redwood Chapter	49
Liz Habner		136
Dave Hampton		174
B. R. Harms		116
Keith S. Harris		71
Rodney Harris	Bureau of Land Management	212
Helen L. Hartman		63
Mrs. Jas A. Hawker		89
Roger A. Heath	Ormsby Sportsmen's Association	18
Patricia L. Hedge	The Wilderness Society	197
Jim Heimler		179
Barbara Henderson		61

Ann Hibbs	Lahontan Audobon Society	149
Jack Hinrichs		79
Inngard Holliday		54
Hohn Honsberger		119
Mrs. Samuel Hopkins		152
Leonard W. Hoskins		143
Kent Howard		170
Paul Howard	Farmers Home Administration	1
James Hulse		190
Joseph Hunkins		94
M. Byng Hunt		104
Robert T. Ives		198
Shirley Jackson		200
Patricia Jagger		101
Rand Jewett		64
Ann Johnson		200
Norman Johnson		107
Barry and Jan Jones		98
Kenneth Jones		202
Roy G. Jones M.D.		135
M. C. Jorden		140
Gordon Keller		90
Barbara Kelly		146
Karen A. Kelly		200
Ann Kersten		77
Betty Kersten		81
Terry Kier		166
Leon Kind		41
Muriel King		39
Donal A. Klebenow	Nevada Chapter of the Wildlife Society	23
William J. Laden		106
Bill Landolfe		200
Mary Landolfe		200
Ronald M. Lanner	Utah State University	211
Judy A. Laaey		200
Richard M. Leonard		24
Lee S. Levin		113
Marie Lindgren		83
Joe and Mary Lorenz		42
Mrs. Ruth Ann Lowe		114
Susan Richardson Lundy		57
Melissa Lux		60
Geneviere F. Lynch		76
Amy Mazza		205
Hal Mc Ginnis		64
Dee Dee Mc Ginnis		64
Bob McGinty	Elko County Conservation Board	73
Merlin McColm		168
William McDonald		200

Harvey E. McClain		200
Dan and Chris Meier		112
William Metz		16
Patti Miller		200
Jerry Millet	Chief Western Shoshone National Council	197
Bradford A. Mills	Nevada Mining Association	172
Paul Minasian		158
Roger Mitchell		64
William Mollini	Nevada Department of Wildlife	86, 87
Trude McMahon Morris	Soroptimist International	185
Suzette R. Moore		200
Richard K. Moser		126
Charles W. Murray	Environmental Protection Agency	206
Charles F. Nelsen		64
Mary Nelsen		64
William A. Nisbet		178
Sue Nobriga		52
Jeri Norgon		200
Charlotte Nott		171
Phillip Oliver		54
Angie Omran		200
Scott Oxborrow	Elko Bighorns Unlimited	44
Linda Paez		186
Jim Pamberter		209
Rebecca Parr		210
Arnold S. Peck		129
Miles A. Pepper		97
Tom Pesio		13
Stan Petersen		64
Anne G. Phillips		66
David Pinkham		157
Ann Pitchford		74
Alfred Plank		167
Patricia Sanderson Port	National Park Service	121
Kenneth S. Post		40
H. W. Praetorius	Exxon Company, USA	194
Gerald Pudy		45
Thomas and Frances Rak		69
Merline Rapley		200
Sally and Les Reid		150
Joseph Riordan		6
Joseph H. Robertson		19
Linda D. Robinson		200
Joe Royer		165
Gayle Russell		151
Marcia L. Sada		200
Lois Sagel		102
Jesse Sandorf		84

Gertrude Saxton		70
Vicki J. Scharnhorst		124
Frank Shields	Bureau of Land Management	3
Marjorie Sill		189
Marjorie Sill	Sierra Club Toiyabe Chapter	193
Karyn D. Skemp		21
James R. Slownik		78
Thomas H. Slone		125
Paul W. Smith		180
Catherine A. Smith		12
Cori Smith		64
Richard Spotts	Defenders of Wildlife	20
Jessie R. Springborn		99
James Spland		200
Von Sorensen	Nevada Woolgrowers Association	91
Von Sorensen		105
Ruth Stephens		64
Jeff Stone		34
Albert and June Stone		201
Rose Strickland		196
R. E. Strite		191
Stephen Stults		37
Steve Surowiec		62
John R. Swonson		4
Allan Sweger		115
Karen Tanner		148
Vernon Taylor		160
Larene Terhell		53
Peggy Thomas		59
Bonnie Trach		14
Sal Tromba & Family		120
Joel S. Tuhy	The Nature Conservancy	142
Barbara Ulman		64
Bill Vincent		43
Joseph A. Viscuglia		85
Dick and Carol Wachtel		9
John D. Walker	Nevada State Clearinghouse	184
Judith Walker		48
Jack Walther		182
Glen Ward		110
Toni Watkins		27
Charles S. Watson	Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association	154
Helen Wauters	Placer County Conservation Task Force	109
John D. Wells	Minerals Exploration Coalition	153
Edward R. Wiess D.D.S.		68
Jack Wilcox		155

Pamela B. Wilcox	Nevada Division of State Lands	101
Harold W. Wood Jr.		111
Sarah Woodin		183
Terry Woodin		177
Fred E. Wright	Nevada Wildlife Federation, Inc.	176
Steve Wyatt		164
David S. Yoder		108
Sally Yost		95
Harold S. Young		64

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIS AND PROPOSED FOREST PLAN AND FOREST SERVICE RESPONSES

The following pages contain copies of the public comments concerning the Humboldt's Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Forest Plan. The Forest Service responses are shown opposite the comments, except for those comments that have a similar theme. For these comments, one response has been prepared and then referenced.

The list shown above can be used to find any comment submitted.

1

COMMENTS

#1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION
Room 5438, Federal Building
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

June 21, 1985

Mr B. J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Hwy.
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

We have reviewed the Draft of the Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) sent to us and have no comments. We appreciated receiving this information and are returning it to you. 1-1

Sincerely,

Paul F. Howard

PAUL F. HOWARD, P.E.
FmHA Engineer

Enclosures

JUN 24 '85

Copies to file

FS
AG

Farmers Home Administration is an Equal Opportunity Lender.
Complaints of discrimination based on race, sex, religion, age, national origin, marital status or handicap should be sent to:
Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250

RESPONSES

1-1 No response necessary.

2

COMMENTS

conoco

# 2

JUL 08 1985

E. Fred Birdsall
Public Lands Coordinator

Conoco Inc.
555 17th Street
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 281-6123

July 3, 1985

JUL 05 '85

Mr. B.J. Graves
Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Re: Humboldt National Forest DEIS/LRMP

Dear Mr. Graves:

My comments on the subject plan relate strictly to oil and gas with one exception. I have visited, on the ground, the Grant Range WSA recommended by you for wilderness and I disagree that it is of sufficient quality to merit designation. I find it simply non-exceptional in regard to the qualities upon which wilderness is required to be based. I find the hiking, hunting, photography and wildlife viewing potential to be overstated.

Coincidently with my low opinion of the Grant wilderness quality, I disagree with your mineral potential assessment there but prefer to develop the general case before referring again to the specifics of the Grant.

As a starting point, I refer to USGS Circular 902-H Petroleum Potential of Wilderness Lands in Nevada (copy attached). Throughout that study the thought is repeated that the subsurface geology is extremely complex and little, in fact, is known for sure. This much is generally agreed upon at the present time:

1. Deposition of good marine Paleozoics was followed by,
2. Thrust faulting with horizontal displacements no uncommonly over 100 miles followed by,
3. Relaxation and vertical block faulting which created,
4. A NE/SW trending basin and range fabric followed by,
5. Some volcanic intrusion along the vertical block fault faces and other fracture weaknesses, and,
6. Erosion of the uplifted high blocks off into the interblock low areas.

2-1

RESPONSES

2-1 U. S. Geological Survey circular 902-H "Petroleum Potential of Wilderness Lands in the Western United States" rates the subject areas for petroleum potential based on the presence of source rocks, proximity to areas of known production of oil and gas, and geothermometry data. No consideration was given to structural conditions which might provide traps for the accumulation of hydrocarbons.

The Grant Range is structurally very complex with a lower zone of highly metamorphosed rocks including boudins of quartz monzonite. Above this lower zone and separated from it by up to six levels of thrust faulting is an upper zone of non-metamorphosed rocks.

The Southern Grant Range has the characteristics of a metamorphic core complex such as the Ruby Mountains and the Snake Range. Based on this structural data for the Grant Range and the petroleum potential rating from circular # 902-H, only the eastern flank of the Grant Range is considered to have moderate petroleum potential since the flank is relatively undisturbed.

The core of the range has been highly metamorphosed and faulted to such an extent that it would be unlikely to produce petroleum or provide structural traps.

2-2 In the case of Mt. Moriah and the Wheeler Peak area: Both are included in the Snake Range "metamorphic core complex". Again, the area is typified by a highly metamorphosed lower zone separated by low angle thrust faults from an upper zone which is unmetamorphosed. Since the area is within this structural setting and there is no nearby oil/gas production, it was not rated as having moderate potential for oil/gas production.

Mr. B.J. Graves
Humboldt National Forest
Page 2

July 3, 1985

It is believed that oil was generated and matured in these interblock basins. Some disagreement exists here as some of that oil appears probable Tertiary, some probably Paleozoic. In any event, oil seeps apparently related to migration routes afforded by the vertical block fault faces gave direct indication of hydrocarbon presence. Drilling in Railroad Valley starting with Eagle Springs, Trap Springs, and most recently, Grant Canyon, has identified several small but shallow (4 to 7 thousand feet) and prolific (three wells at Grant Canyon produce 2000 bopd each) fields. Currently, drilling wells, seismic field work, leasing, and other indicators give certain evidence that Railroad Valley is now firmly on the oil and gas map as more than a curiosity. The results of this high level of activity will be to incrementally enhance our altogether too scant current geologic knowledge.

Industry does not believe that Railroad Valley is unique. My own company's exploration of the neighboring (to the east) Garden Valley and White River Valley seeks to find similar geologic circumstances there and Conoco is not alone in pursuing that possibility.

Lying between Railroad Valley and Garden/White River Valleys is the uplifted Grant Range and Grant WSA. Given our inexact understanding of the geology, it is easy to see how the two valleys and the intermediate Grant Range provide in concert an excellent laboratory from which we may be able to extract more geologic/geophysical indicators. At present, I'd guess that no one wants to drill the Grant; the common current perception holds that the upthrust blocks exposed Paleozoics too much, destroying oil and gas prospectiveness. But, we don't know for sure what the subthrust is doing; we don't know a lot of things. Our perceptions are currently changing with each new piece of data.

The Grant is the one area where adjacent production is more likely to identify this area as the laboratory where industry will commit exploration money to unlock nature's secrets. Wilderness withdrawal would foreclose access to that opportunity.

Mount Mariah and Wheeler, also recommended for wilderness, are rated by the USGS as having medium potential for oil and gas, same as Grant. However, those two not only are better quality wilderness but also lack the economic incentive that Railroad Valley has put next to Grant.

2-1 See response 2-1 above.

In short, I urge the non-designation of Grant for the foregoing reasons.

In further analysis of the DEIS/LRMP, I agree that the geologic potential/access restraints matrix would be of limited utility but for a different reason than you cite. The principal problem is that the subsurface and its extremely complex geology and consequent petroleum potential are simply unknown. You are, however, somewhat negative in your assessment. You state that the petroleum potential is low except for the east flank of the Grant Range. In point of fact, the USGS rates as medium potential the Snake Range (which includes the Wheeler and Mariah WSA's) and portions of the Schell and White Pine. While these ratings, yours, ours, or USGS, are little more than educated guesses, yours are the most conservative.

2-2 See response 2-2 above.

2 CONT. COMMENTS

Mr. B.J. Graves
Humboldt National Forest
Page 3

July 3, 1985

Such understatement of potential leads to a stronger degree of pessimism than I believe correct for a forward looking LRMP and tends to subordinate oil and gas to other surface uses. 2-2

Nevada now enjoys around $10 million per year, all dedicated to their school fund, by virtue of royalty sharing from federal production. It is insensitive to relate your sole comment on socioeconomic impacts of petroleum development in terms of possible large population increases in a short time. Indeed, it is my experience that most Nevada communities, and especially those impacted by the loss of mining jobs, would welcome the infusion of oil and gas families and payroll.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours,

EPB:bc
Enclosure
cc: A.O. Spaulding - WOGA

RESPONSES

See response 2-2 above.

1630

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WINNEMUCCA DISTRICT OFFICE
705 East 4th Street
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

#3

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1601
(NV-023.1)

July 29, 1985

Mr. B.J. Graves, Humboldt National Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
976 Mountain City Hwy.
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

The Winnemucca District, Bureau of Land Management has completed a review of your recently completed Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Proposed Forest Plan for the Humboldt National Forest. Particular attention was paid to the Santa Rosa Management Area which is contiguous to our district. We can find no significant impacts to the land we manage, therefore we have no comments to offer at this time. 3-1

We wish to commend you and your staff on the excellent job you have done in preparing this document.

Sincerely yours,

Frank C. Shields

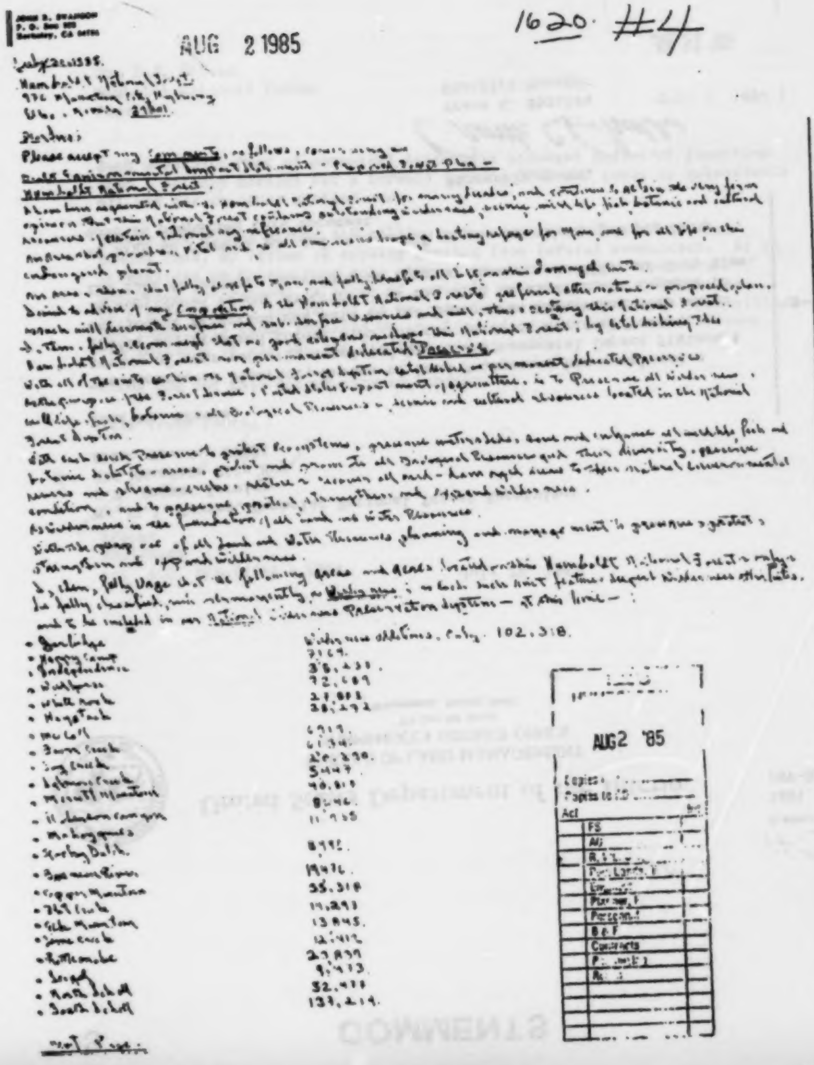
Frank C. Shields
District Manager

JUL 31 '85

3-1 No response necessary

READEX FICHE

COMMENTS



AUG 2 1985

1620 #4

Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Gentlemen:

Please accept my comments, as follows, concerning the Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Proposed Forest Plan - Humboldt National Forest.

[illegible]

and to be included in our National Wilderness Preservation System — at this time — :

	Wilderness additions, only. 102,318.
Jarbidge	
Happy Camp	7169.
Independence	38,431.
Wildhorse	72,689
White Rock	27,883
[illegible]	28,292
[illegible]	6919.
[illegible] Creek	6134.
Long Creek	20,290.
Jefferson Creek	5447
Mount Moriah	40,817
[illegible] Canyon	8946.
Mahogany	11,955
[illegible]	8992.
[illegible]	19476.
Copper Mountains	35,318
[illegible] Creek	14,293
Elk Mountain	13,845.
[illegible] Creek	12,412
Rattlesnake	27,839
[illegible]	9,473.
North Schell	32,477
South Schell	137,214.

Next Page.

AUG2 '85

Copies
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Act
FS
AO
Contracts

4-1

4-2

RESPONSES

4-1 One of the basic purposes of the National Forest is to preserve the wilderness, scenic values, wildlife, fish, botanic and cultural resources. While the Forest Service does have a responsibility to manage these resources, it also has responsibilities to manage for other multiple uses such as grazing, timber, developed recreation, minerals and other uses.

4-2 The preferred alternative represents a particular management strategy necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives identified within the Forest Plan. Wilderness recommendations are one part of the preferred alternative. Wilderness recommendations were based on the quality of the prospective areas, the suitability of the area, the public and environmental needs for the area to become wilderness, and compatibility with the overall management scheme for the preferred alternative.

4-3 In accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, potential Wild and Scenic Rivers were inventoried in 1970 and again in 1980 by the Department of the Interior, with assistance from other agencies. Three rivers partially within the Forest were identified as having some potential for Wild and Scenic River Status. Eligibility assessments were conducted on these rivers in 1982. Since the rivers were found to be ineligible, none were recommended for Wild and Scenic River status.

4-4 Refer to comment 4-1.

4-5 Constructed roads that no longer meet the needs of the public or administrative needs of the Forest Service are obliterated. Obliterated roads are reclaimed as specified in standards and guidelines outlined in the Forest Plan.

4-6 There is no logging occurring or planned on the Forest.

4-7 Refer to comment 4-1.

4-8 Public lands are consolidated to provide for improved management. Some inholdings within the Forest such as agricultural and residential areas are better left in private ownership. To acquire all inholdings is not in the public's best interest. Also, isolated parcels of National Forest administered land needed for community expansion should be considered for disposal.

JOHN D. SWANSON
P. O. Box [illegible]
Berkeley, CA [illegible]

Page 2 of 2 ·

• Duck Creek Mountain	13,542
• Cave Creek	7,994
• Goshute	11,874
• Eight Mile	5,641.
• Mount Moriah	103,526.
• Granite Springs	5,009.
• Ward Mountain	14,113.
• Wheeler Peak	67,467
• Highland Ridge	71,617
• [illegible]	12,353.
• Red Mountain	31,478.
• Cottonwood North	9,972.
• Cottonwood South	17,513.
• Bald Mountain North	6,923
• Bald Mountain South	13,116.
• [illegible]	81,362.
• Jampeak	12,663
• White Pine North	249,734.
• White Pine South	11,616.
• Currant-Water	58,223.
• [illegible]	5,254.
• Grant Range	100,047.
• Black Springs	10,763.
• Quinn	102,238.
• Quinn River	75,497.
- A	14,183.
- B	10,452.
• Santa Rosa	79,345.
• Ruby Mountains	111,493.
• East Humboldt	30,271.
• Pearl Peak	15,183

● Plus, an additional 61,800 Acres.

● For a Grand total of some 1,971,800 Acres of Wilderness to be located on this Humboldt National Forest [illegible], and to be included in our National Wilderness Preservation System - at this time.

To include rivers and streams - creeks in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

To classify this National Forest as a National Wildlife Ecological Reserve and National Critical Habitat Area.

To upgrade [illegible] including, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, as examples only.

To establish [illegible], the Humboldt National Forest as a permanent dedicated National Wilderness Wildlife Ecological Reserve and select this National Forest's permanent planning and management alternative, as follows.

Alternative Preservation. Wilderness, Wildlife Ecological Reserve [illegible]

To allocate [illegible] to natural area [illegible] natural environment

With an end to logging so as to save this areas' soil and vegetation resources.

To ban oil and gas, as well as geothermal activities, [illegible] will devastate this National Forest.

And all forms of mining could well destroy this Humboldt National Forest.

With no consideration of any hydro activities, as they are so damaging to water resources.

To permanently ban all forms of grazing and sub-surface development on all current, proposed and potential Wilderness with no release of any Roadless Areas.

To acquire all inholdings on all Federal Lands. With no disposal of any Federal Lands.

To [illegible] save our natural lands and wilderness in our own America!

Sincerely,

John K. Swanson

4-2	See response 4-2 above.
4-3	See response 4-3 above.
4-4	See response 4-4 above.
4-5	See response 4-5 above.
4-6	See response 4-6 above.
4-7	See response 4-7 above.
4-8	See response 4-8 above.

AUG 9 1985

#5
[illegible]

Norman P. Gregas
512 E. Center St.
Shenandoah, Pa. 17976

August 3, 1985

R. J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
U.S.D.A.
Forest Service
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Hwy.
Elko, Nevada 89801

Ladies or Gentelmen:

I agree with all aspects in Alternative K - (preferred alternative), except for its low level of wilderness. Of the 1.742,728 -(gross) acres recommended for wilderness status, only 16% are recommended in Alternative K.

With only one Wilderness area in the state of Nevada and the Recreation visitor days have increased for that area from 4,700 in 1970 to 12,600 in 1980 (DEIPS-III-15). More wilderness should be recommended, as use is sure to increase in the 1990's.

It is hard to make a roadless wilderness after roads are built. Please, wilderness is more important for our future than most of us know. The Humboldt National Forest can make a wise choice by recommending more wilderness in Alternative K. 5-1

Thank you for your time and help in furnishing the desired documents, so that I could responded to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Norman P. Gregas

mg
cc

5-1 **Wilderness designation is one part of the preferred alternative that represents the level of management which best provides for needs of the resources and the public. The need for additional wilderness designation has been recognized within the FEIS/Plan.**

#6

AUG 22 1985

Forest Supervisor Aug. 30-1985
Humbolt National Forest
Elko Nevada
Dear Sir!

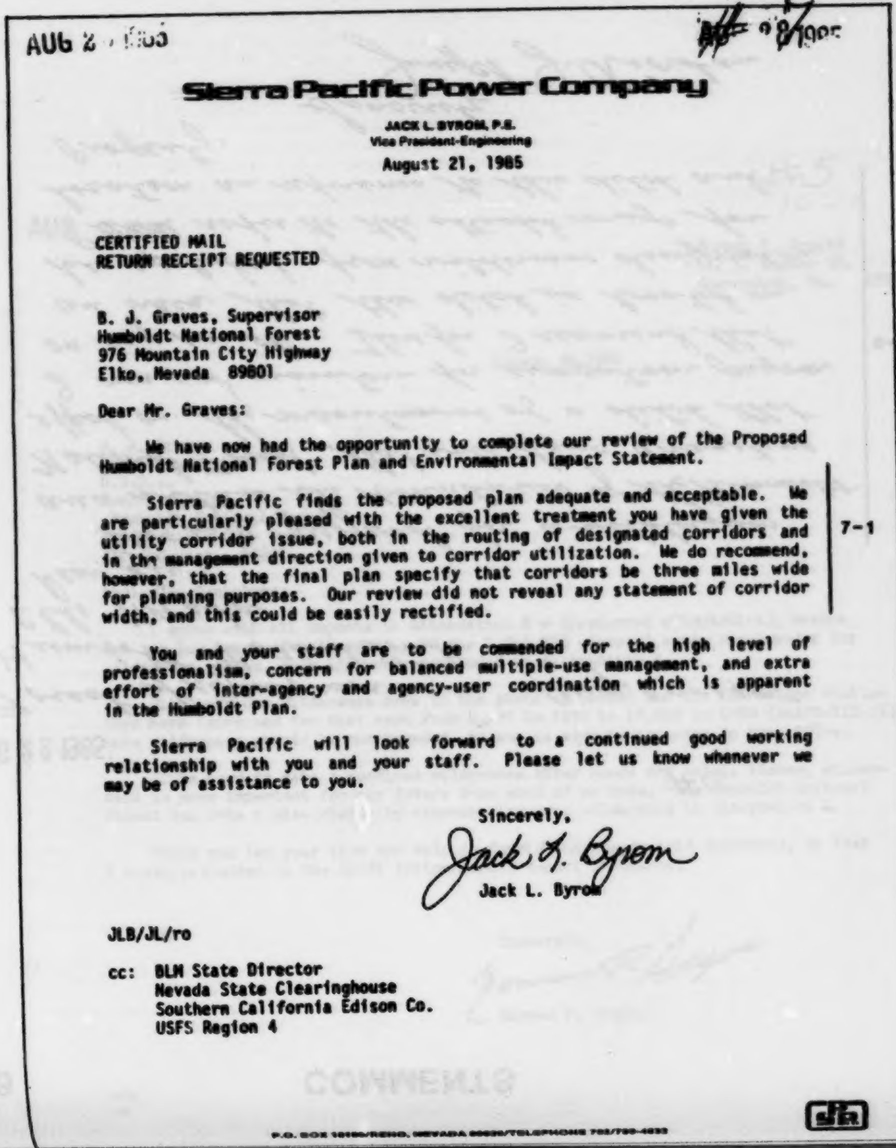
This is a proposal for a wilderness area within the boundaries of the Humbolt National Forest that will have a negative effect on the maintenance of a ditch that I own and maintain for irrigation purposes on my ranch. Therefor I recommend that an area that this ditch is located on be excluded from wilderness designation Please refer to the attached map for location an reference to this ditch and Property. 6-1

Sincerely
Joseph J. Riordan

6-1 **We are aware of the presence of your irrigation ditch. The recommended wilderness area boundary has been modified to avoid conflicts with your ditch.**

7

COMMENTS



AUG 2 [illegible]

1620

~~[illegible]~~ 1985

Sierra Pacific Power Company

JACK L. BYROM, P.E.
Vice President-Engineering

August 21, 1985

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

B. J. Graves, Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

We have now had the opportunity to complete our review of the Proposed Humboldt National Forest Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

Sierra Pacific finds the proposed plan adequate and acceptable. We are particularly pleased with the excellent treatment you have given the utility corridor issue, both in the routing of designated corridors and in the management direction given to corridor utilization. We do recommend, however, that the final plan specify that corridors be three miles wide for planning purposes. Our review did not reveal any statement of corridor width, and this could be easily rectified. 7-1

You and your staff are to be commended for the high level of professionalism, concern for balanced multiple-use management, and extra effort of inter-agency and agency-user coordination which is apparent in the Humboldt Plan.

Sierra Pacific will look forward to a continued good working relationship with you and your staff. Please let us know whenever we may be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Jack L. Byrom

Jack L. Byrom

JLB/JL/ro

cc: BLM State Director
Nevada State Clearinghouse
Southern California Edison Co.
USFS Region 4

RESPONSES

7-1 As you mentioned the Plan delineates only the location of utility corridors. Widths of these corridors vary with topography and location. Corridor widths were agreed upon by each District Ranger and your office in March of 1983. Please refer to the letters and maps from Stephen P. Younkin, Sierra Pacific Power Company, to District Rangers dated April 5, 6 and 19, 1983. Copies of these letters are available at the Forest Supervisor's Office, Elko or the appropriate District Office.

AUG 29 1985

#8
1620

National Parks & Conservation Association

1701 Eighteenth Street, N.W.• Washington, D.C. 20009

RUSSELL D. BUTCHER
Regional Representative
SOUTHWEST & CALIFORNIA
Box 67
Cottonwood, AZ 86326
(602) 634-5758

(202) 265-2717

August 24, 1985

RE: Humboldt National Forest
Land & Resources Management
Plan Draft EIS

Mr. B. J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear BJ:

As you know from our past conversations and my enjoyable meeting with you and Paul Demeule at Wheeler Peak and Ely on June 30th, National Parks & Conservation Association, a private nonprofit membership organization founded in 1919, has long had a special interest in the South Snake Range of Humboldt National Forest. We greatly appreciate this opportunity to comment on your Wheeler Peak wilderness proposal, as well as other wilderness possibilities in the Humboldt, in hopes that our views may prove helpful.

(1) While our Association continues to feel strongly that the Wheeler Peak area fully merits establishment as a unit of the National Park System (possibly as a Bristlecone Pine National Monument), we must at the same time say we are most pleased that the Humboldt National Forest Land & Resources Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement recommends most of the best of the South Snakes for addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System. In our opinion, the Wheeler Peak area, with its fabulously scenic high country, dramatic peaks, alpine lakes, and groves of ancient Bristlecone Pines, would easily rank as one of the finest wilderness areas in the entire country. We applaud your recognition of Wheeler's outstanding natural wilderness quality.

May we urge, however, that the proposed unit be extended farther south (the Highland Ridge Roadless Area), particularly in light of the fact that the jeep "road" near Mt. Washington was recently washed out. As a minimum, we would favor inclusion of all of the rest of the "Wheeler Peak Scenic Area," along with all of Granite Peak and Highland Ridge. This is outstanding high country that is integral to the area to the north and that is clearly worthy of wilderness protection. May we also 8-1

8-1 After reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, several revisions were made on both the Bristlecone and Highland Ridge recommendations. The portion of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Area extending into the Highland Ridge Roadless Area has been added to the wilderness recommendation for the Bristlecone Area. The upper portion of the Johnson Lake road (above Shoshone Campground) was closed and therefore this area was added into the wilderness recommendation. An area northwest of Mount Washington has been excluded due to conflicts with ongoing mineral exploration projects.

8 CONT. COMMENTS

2-NPCA response to Humboldt NF draft EIS

suggest that the proposed wilderness boundary below Johnson Lake be extended on down Snake Creek drainage to near the upper campground. This adjustment would still place the lake within a close hike (2-3 miles) from the end of the road; yet, would afford better protection for the upper part of Snake Creek watershed. 8-1

(2) Mount Moriah is a superb Draft EIS recommendation for wilderness. Our only suggestion here is to extend the proposed wilderness boundary in the southeastern corner all the way down to the national forest boundary. In our view, the basic national forest boundary is a far more easily identifiable and therefore more manageable than is the preferred alternative boundary higher on the mountainside. Since you have a manageable boundary already in place, why not simply utilize the same boundary for wilderness, as well? 8-2

(3) Duckwater (the Currant Mountain area in the southern White Pine Range) is, in our view, another absolutely superb wilderness possibility of truly national significance. We strongly urge that your Draft EIS no-wilderness recommendation be reversed on this unit in the final EIS. The document refers to high mineral potential in the southern and southwest end of the unit and that it is heavily staked with mineral claims. Yet, it is our understanding that all of those claims have recently been abandoned, that Duckwater Roadless Area is now claim free, and that mining companies no longer believe there are any viable mineral values in the area. In addition to this significant change of circumstances, we feel strongly that the area's stunning scenic quality, including bold sheer limestone cliffs; and wildlife values, including an indigenous band of desert bighorn sheep, easily qualify Duckwater as a top candidate for Nevada wilderness. A couple of suggestions: we feel the western boundary would be better if extended eastward from the national forest boundary only a mile, rather than the suggested two miles; and we urge that several "roads" or ways in the southwestern part of the area should, in any case, be closed for enhanced protection of the wintering habitat of the bighorns. 8-3

(4) Ruby Mountains is, by any standards, another nationally significant mountain range that merits addition to the national wilderness system. The combination of spectacular high country, alpine lakes, and streams is simply outstanding. In our view, nothing less than your preferred alternative for the central part of the Rubys should be considered. May we urge, though, that the Ruby North Roadless Area be added to the wilderness proposal. The entire expanse is magnificent, and offers a particularly superb opportunity for wilderness recreation for Nevada and the nation. We notice a brief reference in the Draft EIS to helicopter skiing. Naturally, we do not favor helicopter landings within wilderness areas, except for emergency purposes. We urge that this not be made an excuse to avoid recommending the Ruby Mountains/North Ruby units for wilderness. We would also urge that the unimproved, privately owned tracts of land within the Ruby Mountains/North Ruby Roadless Areas be 8-4

RESPONSES

8-2 Providing a manageable boundary was a major reason for delineating the southeastern confines of the Mount Moriah recommended wilderness area as it exists. Realigning the boundary of the Mount Moriah recommended wilderness area to coincide with the National Forest boundary, in the southeastern corner, would not provide a manageable wilderness unit.

8-3 The Duckwater Roadless Area is not recommended for wilderness because of its moderate to high potential for mineral development. Additionally, the area has been determined to have only a moderate degree of natural integrity due to past impacts resulting from grazing and mineral exploration.

The western boundary was delineated to exclude the historical pinenut gathering area used by the Duckwater Indian tribe. A restriction on this gathering area would be an infringement on their historical use of the area.

8-4 After reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, a portion of the Ruby North Roadless Area (Soldier Lake) has been recommended for wilderness within the FEIS/Plan.

3-NPCA response to Humboldt NF draft EIS

acquired with Land and Water Conservation Fund moneys. These tracts can be most readily justified for priority acquisition once the area is added to the wilderness system.

(5) Jarbidge additions are a very important expansion of Nevada's only existing wilderness area. Your Draft EIS's preferred alternative for three proposed additions are excellent. May we also urge: (a) addition of the Camp Creek area, both on its own merits as a beautiful unspoiled watershed and as one of the most popular and scenic access routes up into the Jarbidge high country; (b) until recently, we were unaware of the natural values in the upper reaches of Canyon Creek watershed just east of the main area of the Jarbidge, but we now favor adding this scenic and wild area, with interesting rock formations, meadows, streams, and aspen groves to the Jarbidge Wilderness; and (c) we believe that at least some of the land south of Jarbidge Wilderness deserves wilderness protection, in part to offer the Jarbidge a better southern boundary than currently exists. 8-5

(6) Grant Range is a worthy area that we are pleased to see recommended for wilderness in your Draft EIS. Our only suggestion is that the boundary appears to be drawn too tightly around Troy Peak. To offer better protection for the Troy Peak vicinity and to enhance protection for the major summering range of the bighorn sheep in that area, we urge the proposed wilderness boundaries be extended outward to include more of the country surrounding Troy Peak. 8-6

(7) Quinn (in the Quinn Canyon Range just southwest of the Grant Range) seems to us to be a situation similar to Duckwater. That is, while there was a period in the early 1980s of extensive claim staking and exploration, virtually all of those mineral claims have now been abandoned. We believe, therefore, that Quinn should be recommended for wilderness, as occurred under the Forest Service's RARE II recommendation to Congress. In terms of wilderness quality, its high degree of wildness/remoteness, relative abundance of water (perennial streams), and other features combine to offer a worthy wilderness candidate. We understand there are a few remaining mineral claims in the northwest part of the unit. We believe that area could be omitted without lessening the overall viability of the Quinn unit. 8-7

(8) South Schell (the Schell Range) appears to lie too much in "the shadow" of nearby outstanding potential wilderness areas, such as Wheeler Peak, Mount Moriah, and the Ruby Mountains; and has, therefore, been dropped from your array of wilderness recommendations. Were the Schells located in almost any other part of the country, they would probably have been established as some kind of special protection area--a wilderness or national park. The Schell's high mountain recreation potential, beautiful and massive tundra vastness above timberline, streams, and wildlife values--including Nevada's largest herd of bighorn sheep--all conspire to offer what, from our perspective, at least, is a magnificent de facto wilderness that merits addition to the national wilderness system. 8-8

8-5 After reviewing public comments on Jarbidge, areas around Camp Creek and Canyon Creek have been added to the wilderness recommendation. No changes have been made to the boundary west of Mary's River. It lies on a well-defined manageable natural boundary and effectively excludes areas with numerous structural range improvements.

8-6 The boundary around Troy Peak was delineated to reduce minerals-oil/wilderness conflicts.

8-7 At the time we compiled information for the DEIS/Plan, the Quinn roadless area contained a substantial number of mining claims. Recent information indicates only a small number of mining claims presently exist within the area. Although the area has no active claim staking, it has a high mineral potential, therefore the area has not been recommended for wilderness.

8-8 The Schell Creek Range does not support a population of big-horn sheep. It does, however, support the largest population of elk within Nevada. We have not recommended the South Schell Roadless Area for wilderness due to the area's high mineral potential, as well as other resource management conflicts.

8 CONT. COMMENTS

4-NPCA response to Humboldt NF draft EIS

Furthermore, we are not aware of any current uses of this area that would conflict with wilderness management. Where there is some mineral exploration activity at lower elevations, it may be feasible to omit those specific areas. We hope further consideration will be given to a Schell wilderness alternative. 8-8

Four other Roadless Areas in the Humboldt National Forest, while of less spectacular proportions as the above eight, may nevertheless have some wilderness values deserving protection: (a) Pearl Peak (in the southern Rubys), while of less significance nationally than the larger and more spectacular Ruby Mountains and North Ruby units farther north, is wilderness-quality high country that includes as an important value the major stand of Bristlecone Pines in this mountain range. Wilderness status would enhance protection of those ancient trees. Also, as the prominent mountain range rising directly above the Ruby Marshes of Ruby Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, we favor extending the Pearl Peak wilderness boundary farther down the east side, to the national forest boundary, thereby securing the natural visual integrity of that outstanding viewshed from the marshlands below. This may seem an inconsequential reason for recommending Pearl Peak and for extending the unit's boundaries on down the mountainside. But taking together the whole complex of values in the immediate area, we urge that such a recommendation could be potentially important. 8-9 (b) East Humboldt may seem relatively of somewhat less value as wilderness when compared with the Ruby Mountains/North Ruby units, since it has some of the same qualities and features (high natural integrity, wildlife diversity, alpine lakes, and streams). We urge, though, that--taken on its own merits--this is a gem of an area that does merit wilderness status. The major problem we see to the area's overall integrity is the "checkerboarding" tracts of privately owned, unimproved land. Rather than turning the intermingled public tracts, that lie within the Roadless Area, over to private ownership, we urge that the opposite occur: acquisition of those private tracts with Land and Water Conservation Fund moneys in order to greatly enhance the viability of an East Humboldt Wilderness proposal. 8-10 (c) Elk Mountain, while not an area that would have caught our attention, does have local sportsmen support for wilderness. Given that degree of interest, we urge further serious consideration of Elk Mountain. 8-11 And (d) Santa Rosa has been described to us as very scenic with beautiful trout streams, large aspen groves, and wildlife such as deer, raptors, and introduced California bighorn sheep. This area may have been heavily, even abusively overgrazed in the past, but that may be an excellent reason for recommending the area for wilderness--to enhance ecological protection and restoration. 8-12

Again, we are grateful for this chance to offer some comments on the Draft EIS. Please let us know if we can be of further help.

Sincerely,

Russ

Russell D. Butcher
Southwest & California/Nevada
Representative
Box 67, Cottonwood, AZ. 86326

RESPONSES

8-9 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

8-10 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

8-11 Elk Mountain was not recommended for wilderness due to the preponderance of roads within the area.

8-12 Numerous range improvement projects detract from the natural integrity of the Santa Rosa area. Solitude is reduced in quality as man's evidence is visible from virtually everywhere within the roadless area.

SEP 11 1985

#9

STARR VIEW RANCH
DICK and CAROL WACHTEL
DEETH, NEVADA 89823
702-752-3910
Registered and Commercial Angus Cattle

1620

September 9, 1985

B. J. Graves, Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

We have studied with interest the Proposed Forest Plan for the Humboldt National Forest, together with the DEIS and the maps provided. In addition, we have traveled to your Ely District in White Pine County to visit some of the areas proposed for Wilderness which we had never seen.

We would like to state at this time that we are in agreement with your Wilderness recommendations for Humboldt NationalForest as proposed in the June, 1985 plan; namely, additions to Jarbidge Wilderness of 23,440 acres, the Ruby Mountains of 67,093 acres, Mt. Moriah area of 81,743 acres, including the BLM acreage, Mt. Wheeler and Highland Ridge in the South Snake Range of 60,151 acres, and the Grant Range of 53,383 acres.

In addition, however, we would like to see the addition of approximately 30,000 acres in the East Humboldt Range, as recommended by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Sierra Club. We would like to see this area, which is where we live, protected from commercial development such as ski resorts, and subdivisions, which have already been proposed. 9-1

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Very truly yours,

Dick + Carol Wachtel

Mr. & Mrs. Dick Wachtel

9-1 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude, conducive to primitive types of recreation. Moreover, exclusions have been used effectively to eliminate those areas having existing or potential uses that would conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is refelcted in the Humboldt Final Plan.

10 COMMENTS

SEP 13 1985

11 10

16 20

HOMESTAKE
MINING COMPANY

September 9, 1985

Mr. B. J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

The following are Homestake Mining Company's comments regarding the Humboldt National Forest Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Forest Plan.

Homestake supports the overall objective of the preferred alternative (Alt. K) to seek "a mix of market and non-market resources while providing protection to the environment." We are also encouraged that the preferred alternative recommends "moderate land withdrawals to wilderness, a sufficient budget and a management policy which emphasizes mineral activities." However, we also recognize how difficult it is to agree on a proper "mix" and what constitutes "moderate land withdrawals."

Whether or not a proposed increase of 285,810 acres in wilderness withdrawals is moderate is not the primary issue. The main concern is that three of the proposed wilderness areas are acknowledged by the Forest Service to have high mineral potential. Wheeler Peak, Grant Range, and Jarbidge (western extension) are all considered to be moderately to very highly mineralized. 10-1

The proposed Humboldt Forest Plan, the U.S. Bureau of Mines, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Nevada Department of Minerals all recognize the high mineral potential of the proposed western extension to the existing Jarbidge Wilderness. Furthermore, active mining claims cover a large portion of the area which indicates more than a cursory interest by individuals and company's involved in mining. It is worth noting that the Plan makes reference to the fact that "local people are not in favor of designating more wilderness in this area."

1726 COLE BOULEVARD • GOLDEN, COLORADO 80401 • (303) 277-0700

RESPONSES

Response to: **Homestake Mining Company**
Comments on Humboldt N. F. Plan and DEIS (letter # 10)

10-1 Although mineral development potential is one criterion considered in the evaluation of areas for wilderness designation, other factors such as wilderness quality and public interest are also considered. Some of these other factors are admittedly somewhat subjective judgements. However, the mineral potential ratings may also be considered to be subjective, even though the ratings are based on analogy with known areas of mineral production or historical occurences of mineralization.

10-2 The demand for metal commodities was considered in the decision making process regarding wilderness recommendations. Future need is recognized by the Forest Service, as stated in the planning documents. However, a "reasonable" mix of resource uses is one of the goals of Forest planning. The Forest Service believes the preferred alternative with the recommendation of an additional 268,300 acres for wilderness designation is a reasonable mix of uses.

10-3 In Nevada the conflict between mineral/energy resources and wilderness withdrawals may be unique, in that most of the Forest has some potential for minerals or energy development and at the same time coincident areas have high wilderness quality. It is common knowledge that the lower Paleozoic sediments are petroleum source rocks. It is also known that much of the National Forest has moderate to high potential for minerals development. If all these areas were eliminated from consideration for wilderness, based on the minerals/energy potential, there would be very few quality roadless areas to consider for wilderness.

Mineral/energy criteria alone are usually not the deciding factor in eliminating an area from consideration for wilderness. There are no laws, regulations or guidelines stating that minerals/energy potential will be a dominant factor in wilderness consideration. However, there are guidelines used to rate the quality of wilderness characteristics of an area such as: "Integrity/Naturalness", "Solitude", "Primitive Recreation", "Challenging Experiences", etc. In effect, there is not a 1:1 tradeoff between mineral/energy potential criteria vs. wilderness criteria. Wilderness recommendations are subjective choices based on wilderness criteria and public interest.

Mr. B. J. Graves
September 9, 1985
Page 2

The Plan predicts, in several places, that exploration for and development of hard rock mineral deposits is expected to continue to increase. We would agree. Nevada is one of the most mineralized states in the United States and very important to the survival of our domestic minerals industry. However, as the DEIS correctly notes: "One of the primary factors affecting locatable mineral activities is the amount of land open to exercise the mining laws." If the demand for metals commodities continues to increase, as predicted by the DEIS, then the withdrawal of areas with widely recognized mineral potential is nationally self-defeating. 10-2

See response 10-2 above.

One conclusion reached in the DEIS and Forest Plan is that "the difficulty in predicting where new mineral deposits may be found leads to the conclusion that areas capable of mineral or energy exploration and development may someday include the entire Forest." Homestake concurs with this observation but would suggest that it does not preclude wilderness designations. However, it is inappropriate to propose such designations in areas where there is uniform agreement as to mineral potential. 10-3

See response 10-3 above.

Homestake Mining Company appreciates the opportunity to offer our comments on the Plan and DEIS. We realize that developing and implementing the Forest Plan requires the consideration of a wide variety of interests, opinions, and philosophies. We look forward to a continued positive working relationship with Humboldt National Forest personnel.

Sincerely,

Joe Danni

Joe L. Danni
Regional Manager
Government Affairs

JLD:po

cc: Bob Warren - c/o Nevada Mining Association
John Wells - c/o Minerals Exploration Coalition

11 COMMENTS

//

MARTINA J. GAST
P.O. Box 1852
Winnemucca, NV 89445

September 11, 1985

Forest Supervisor
HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Sir:

I would like to make a few comments concerning the Humboldt National Forest Plan. The major concern I have is that management areas that are similar in their potential for producing resource outputs are not identifying projects and outputs at similar levels. In particular, the Santa Rosa Management Area shows no project work or outputs in the first ten-year period for the following resources:

1. Trail reconstruction and trailhead construction.
2. Wildlife habitat improvement projects.
3. Fuelwood sales and administration
4. Watershed rehabilitation projects.

The Santa Rosa Management Area also shows no minerals cases outputs, and no land exchange or ROW activities are projected. 11-1

The Santa Rosa Management Area has potential in all the above-mentioned resource activities to improve and enhance the resource values for multiple uses.

The system of trails in the area is in a deteriorating condition, which, if not reversed, will result in a total loss of portions of the trail system. With increasing recreation interest and use in the area, trailheads should be established on the east and west sides of the Santa Rosa range for easier access to the trails. 11-2

RESPONSES

11-1 A contract has been let for reconstruction of trails on the Santa Rosa Management Area destroyed or damaged during the floods of 1983 and 1984. Reconstruction will provide the trail network necessary to meet management and public needs within the management area. Upon establishment of the new prison honor camp at Winnemucca, trail maintenance as well as future rehabilitation will be more readily accomplished.

11-2 Trail head facilities for Buffalo, Rebel, Able, Singus, and Little Cottonwood Creeks have been added into the Forest Plan Action Schedule.

11-3 Wildlife and fish habitat improvement projects were inadvertently omitted from the Forest Action Schedule. Since publishing the Draft Plan/EIS the Humboldt National Forest developed a Five-Year Implementation Schedule for wildlfie and fish habitat improvement projects. This implementation schedule has been incorporated into the Final Forest Plan. The Five-Year Implementation Schedule includes projects for fish and wildlife on the Santa Rosa Management Area.

11-4 Fuelwood is an important resource on the Santa Rosa Management Area. Management direction has been established within the Final Plan to develop a fuelwood management program for the Santa Rosa Management Area.

11-5 There were no soil and water improvement projects identified within the Draft Plan for the Santa Rosa Management Area. However, there is a definite need for some watershed improvement projects within the management area. Projects that include riparian area improvements have been added to the Plan.

11 CONT.

COMMENTS		RESPONSES
Wildlife projects should be identified to: 1. enhance deer winter and summer range, 2. improve stream habitat for trout, 3. increase available habitat for upland game birds by placing guzzlers in critical areas, 4. allow easier passage for antelope by altering fences, 5. enhance bighorn sheep habitat.	11-3	See response 11-3 above.
With increased use of woodburning stoves to heat homes, provisions should be made on the management area to handle the increased demand on the fuelwood resource.	11-4	See response 11-4 above.
There are several sites on the management area with the potential to improve watershed conditions. Small rock structures should be installed to check headcutting on selected sites. Channel stabilization is needed on some streams and could be accomplished in conjunction with fisheries habitat improvement projects. Fencing of some riparian areas may be needed to stabilize portions of watersheds, as well as protect wildlife habitat.	11-5	See response 11-5 above.

I hope that these concerns and recommendations will be addressed in the final Humboldt National Forest Plan.

Sincerely,

Martha J. Gast

MARTHA J. GAST

12 COMMENTS

#12

SEP 16 1985

1730 O'Farrell St.
Reno, NV 89503
September 14, 1985

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

The purpose of this letter is to comment on the proposed Forest Management Plan for Humboldt National Forest.

In my opinion, your proposed plan does not take into consideration the need to protect many areas on Humboldt National Forest which could qualify for formal wilderness designation, and which may be so designated in the future. It scarcely seems properly conservative to cease protecting such areas for no particular reason except political pressure, when the demand and need for wilderness is growing so fast. Wilderness isn't something you can go out and manufacture out of an uneconomic prospector's road, you know. In particular, I support all the recommendations of the Wilderness Society and the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club in this matter: 12-1

Jarbidge Additions: increase to include Camp Creek and the headwaters of Canyon Creek, also the country west of St. Mary's River, totalling 54,000 acres. 12-2

Elk Mountain: 12,500 acres at least. 12-3

Santa Rosa Mountains: 80,000 acres. 12-4

Ruby Mountains: enlarge to 150,000 acres, including the northern portion of the range which has amazing wildflowers in spite of the overgrazing. 12-5

East Humboldt: acquire the private land in the Acker Basin and recommend 30,000 acres for wilderness. 12-6

Pearl Peak: extend boundary s.e. for a total of 12,000 acres. 12-7

South Schell: 120,000 acres for wilderness. I'm waiting for a chance to see this (and the one or two others I haven't yet been to on this list), since the photos are so remarkable. 12-8

Mount Moriah: an expanded proposal to 98,000 acres. 12-9

Wheeler Peak: this area should be protected, at least 120,000 acres. 12-10

Currant Mountain: 49,000 acres require protection. 12-11

RESPONSES

12-1 Based upon public comments and reexamination of the RARE II areas, our recommended wilderness area boundaries have been adjusted. Acres have been either added or excluded as appropriate, and two new areas have been recommended for wilderness within the Final Plan/EIS.

The preferred alternative represents a particular management strategy necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives identified within the Forest Plan. Wilderness recommendations are one part of the preferred alternative. Wilderness recommendations were based on the quality, suitability, public and environmental needs, and compatibility of areas with the overall management scheme of the preferred alternative.

12-2 Please refer to response number 8-5.

12-3 Please refer to response number 8-11.

12-4 Please refer to response number 8-12.

12-5 Please refer to response number 8-4.

12-6 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

12-7 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

12-8 The South Schell Roadless Area was not recommended for wilderness due to the area's high mineral potential, as well as other resource management conflicts.

12-9 Please refer to response number 8-2.

12-10 Please refer to response number 8-1.

12-11 Please refer to response number 8-3.

COMMENTS

Grant Range and Quinn Canyon: 60,000 in the first and 95,000 in the second for wilderness. 12-12 12-13

Yes, there's a surprising lot of areas that should be treated as wilderness in this state, though they're only a small part of the Forest Service land here. Let's face it -- one of Nevada's great hidden assets is its marvelous backcountry. Since it's administered by Humboldt National Forest, Humboldt National Forest should take care of it in responsible fashion. And that means managing this rather small portion of the entire forest for its wilderness values.

Very truly yours,

Catherine P Smith

Catherine P. Smith
(Mrs.) Ross W. Smith

RESPONSES

12-12 **The boundary for the Grant Recommended Wilderness Area has not been changed. The boundary around Troy Peak was delineated to reduce conflicts between wilderness and mineral/oil potential development. Wilderness designation may not necessarily provide for greater protection for the big horn sheep population. The Forest is considering the establishment of a special big horn sheep area. The area may be included in the Quinn Management Area and Grant Recommended Wilderness Management Area once the area's value to big horn sheep has been defined.**

12-13 **Please refer to response number 8-7.**

13 COMMENTS

Subject –
Wilderness Area

Sept. 14, 1985
1620
#13

SEP 18 1985

Humbolt National Forest
350 E. 8th
Ely, Nevada 89301

Am oposed to any Wilderness Area.
Better left the way it is – multiple use
for most everyone. When area set aside
for strictly wilderness only just a few
get use of the area. 13-1

Here Ranch run cattle on Forest
Service and BLM Land Shell Creek Range.
Get by quite well this way. If Shell
Creek Range or any other area set aside
for Wilderness no livestock or most
of anything else allowed on these areas.
For these reasons am oposed to any
Wilderness area. Leave as is. 13-1

Thank You
Tom Pasin
Duck Creek
McGill, Nevada
Box 1417
89318

RESPONSES

13-1 **The National Forest Management Act planning regulations require that areas meeting minmum characteristics for wilderness be evaluated during Forest planning. The Wilderness Act of 1964 permits livestock grazing to continue in classified areas at levels that existed at the time of designation.**

14

SEP 18 1985

#14

Bonnie Trach

274 Valley Street San Francisco, CA 94131

9-14-85

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

I write to urge your support for Roadless area & wilderness designations for the following areas of Humboldt National Forest:

Jarbidge Additions - increase wilderness designations to include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek & the country west of St. Mary's River — 14-1

Elk Mountain - recommend 12,500 acres for wilderness designation — 14-2

Santa Rosa - recommend 80,000 acres for wilderness — 14-3

Ruby Mountains - enlarge your proposal to include the northern portion of the range for a total of 150,000 acres — 14-4

East Humboldt - directly purchase private land in Acker Basin & recommend 30,000 acres for wilderness preservation — 14-5

Pearl Peak - extend boundary to the south east for a total of 23,000 acres — 14-6

→

JARBIDGE ADDITIONS (#372)

14-1 In reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, areas around Camp Creek and Canyon Creek have been added to the wilderness recommendation. No changes have been made to the boundary west of Mary's River. It lies on a well defined manageable natural boundary and effectively excludes areas with numerous structural range improvements.

The southern boundary was adjusted to exclude areas having frequent ORV use and numerous structural improvements.

ELK MOUNTAIN

14-2 We agree that the Elk Mountain area has exceptional wildlife potential and associated recreational uses. However, we do not feel that non-wilderness designation precludes developing this potential and meeting the needs of recreational users.

We disagree that wildlife and domestic livestock values are necessarily in direct competition. We do, however, recognize that in many circumstances there may be a degree of trade-off between wildlife and livestock values. These trade-offs are analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Plan. Information pertinent to the Elk Mountain RA can be found in Appendix C of the Plan, Table C. Additionally, prior to any action being implemented on the Forest a site specific environmental assessment is prepared which evaluates the trade-offs between all components including wildlife and livestock. We feel that these two levels of analysis will be adequate in ensuring that the proper level of management emphasis is placed on the most valuable components.

SANTA ROSA(#229)

14-3 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Santa Rosa Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of natural integrity due to the many improvements and intrusions and does not have numerous opportunities for solitude because of the surrounding agriculture areas and major highways. We do not recommend the Santa Rosa Roadless area for designation in the Humboldt's Final Plan. The narrative has been expanded to clarify this rationale.

14-4 After reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, several revisions were made regarding the Ruby Mountains North and South Roadless areas. A portion of the Ruby Mountain North Roadless Area (Soldier Lake) has been recommended for wilderness designation within the FEIS/Plan.

EAST HUMBOLDTS (#226)

14-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas,

14 CONT.

COMMENTS

South Schell - support 120,000 acres of The wilderness & recreational Resource 14-7

Mount Morrah - extend proposal to include Southeast portion of The Roadless area for a total of 98,000 acres 14-8

Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone) - Include The Highland Ridge ~~[illegible]~~ of The wilderness & designate 120,000 acres, including The old Road from The upper Campground TO Johnson Lake 14-9

Currant Mountain (Duckwater) - include 49,000 acres for wilderness protection 14-10

Grant Ridge - expand boundaries TO include 60,000 acres, Thereby providing greater protection for The sheep population 14-11

Quinn Canyon Range - designate 95,000 acres for wilderness protection 14-12

The Humboldt forest has tremendous recreational & wildlife Resources which must be protected. Construction OR Reconstruction of Roads in or near Roadless areas must stop. 14-13 Also I urge your support for special protection of The Bristlecone Pine Through "Standards & Guidelines" 14-14

Thank you very much for your support on these issues. 14-15

Sincerely, Bonnie

RESPONSES

having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

PEARL PEAK (#228)

14-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

SCHELL CREEKS

14-7 We have not recommended the South Schell or North Schell Roadless Areas for wilderness designation due to the high mineral potential inherent in both areas.

14-8 After reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, the boundary for the Mount Moriah Recommended Wilderness Area was revised. The southeastern boundary was not changed. This boundary is readily definable and manageable.

WHEELER PEAK AND HIGHLAND RIDGE

14-9 In reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, several significant revisions have been made on both the Wheeler Peak (#359) and the Highland Ridge (#391) areas. These modifications are depicted in Appendix C of the Final Plan.

The Wheeler Peak Roadless Area will hereafter be referred to as the Bristlecone Recommended Wilderness Area.

We agree, and have revised the boundary for the Wheeler Peak (#359) Roadless Area to incorporate the area between the Shoshone Campground and Johnson Lake.

CURRANT MOUNTAIN (DUCKWATER #4-839)

14-10 This area is not recommended for wilderness because of its moderate to high potential for mineral development. Additionally, the area has been determined to have only a moderate degree of natural integrity due to past impacts resulting from grazing and mineral exploration.

14-11 The boundary for the Grant Recommended Wilderness Area has not been changed. The boundary around Troy Peak was delineated to reduce conflicts between wilderness and mineral/oil potential development. Wilderness designation may not necessarily provide for greater protection for the big horn sheep population. The Forest is considering the establishment of a special big horn sheep area. The area may be included in the Quinn Management Area and Grant Recommended Wilderness Management Area once the area's value to big horn sheep has been defined.

QUINN CANYON (#360)

14-12 The Quinn (#360) Roadless Area has not been recommended for wilderness designation due to the high potential for mineral development throughout the area.

14-13 Based upon public comments, we have reevaluated management emphasis levels for certain resources (i.e wildlife/fish, developed recreation, dispersed recreation and soil/water). Within certain management areas the emphasis level for the above mentioned resources has been increased.

14-14 Construction or reconstruction of roads within roadless areas recommended for wilderness designation is prohibited for all activities except mining. Since there are no buffer zones around wilderness areas or areas recommended for wilderness, road construction or reconstruction can occur up to the boundary line.

14-15 We appreciate your concern for the protection of bristlecone pine. The standards and guidelines presented within the Final Forest Plan will provide for adequate protection of these unique trees.

15

COMMENTS

IL 15

SEP 18 1985

9/13/85

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humbolt Nat'l Forest
976 Mt City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

I am writing to support wilderness designation to various areas of the Humbolt National Forest.

Specifically, I support designation for:

① Jarbidge additions: I urge you to increase your recommendations to include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, the country west of St. Mary's River (54,000 acres total) 15-1

② Elk Mountain: at least 12,5000 acres are needed to preserve this sportsman's paradise in the NE corner of the state 15-2

③ Santa Rosa: this remote country includes the headwaters of the Quinn and Little Humbolt Rivers. Some 80,000 Acres are needed to preserve the large raptor population and trout fishing 15-3

④ Ruby Mts: including the Northern portion of the range will help preserve this area's alpine meadows, excellent fishing and hunting (total 150,000 acres). 15-4

⑤ East Humbolt: The dozens of lakes and the 11,300 foot Hole-in-the-Mt Peak will require purchase of private land - a total of 30,000 acres are needed for appropriate wilderness protection in this area 15-5

⑥ Pearl Peak: the boundary should be extended to the Southeast for a total of 23,000 Acres 15-6

⑦ South Schell: 120,000 acres of this magnificent wilderness and recreational resource should be designated ~~[illegible]~~ for wilderness 15-7

RESPONSES

JARBIDGE ADDITIONS (#372)

15-1 In reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, areas around Camp Creek and Canyon Creek have been added to the wilderness recommendation. No changes have been made to the boundary west of Mary's River. It lies on a well defined manageable natural boundary and effectively excludes areas with numerous structural range improvements.

The southern boundary was adjusted to exclude areas having frequent ORV use and numerous structural improvements.

ELK MOUNTAIN

15-2 We agree that the Elk Mountain area has exceptional wildlife potential and associated recreational uses. However, we do not feel that non-wilderness designation precludes developing this potential and meeting the needs of recreational users.

We disagree that wildlife and domestic livestock values are necessarily in direct competition. We do, however, recognize that in many circumstances there may be a degree of trade-off between wildlife and livestock values. These trade-offs are analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Plan. Information pertinent to the Elk Mountain KRA can be found in Appendix C of the Plan, Table C. Additionally, prior to any action being implemented on the Forest a site specific environmental assessment is prepared which evaluates the trade-offs between all components including wildlife and livestock. We feel that these two levels of analysis will be adequate in ensuring that the proper level of management emphasis is placed on the most valuable components.

SANTA ROSA (#229)

15-3 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Santa Rosa Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of natural integrity due to the many improvements and intrusions and does not have numerous opportunities for solitude because of the surrounding agriculture areas and major highways. We do not recommend the Santa Rosa Roadless Area for designation in the Humboldt's Final Plan. The narrative has been expanded to clarify this rationale.

15-4 Please refer to response number 14-4.

EAST HUMBOLDTS (#226)

15-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness

15 CONT. COMMENTS

⑧ Mt. Moriah: I am urging you to expand its proposal to includes the southeast portion of the roadless area for a total of 98,000 acres. 15-8

⑨ Wheeler Peak: (bristlecone): the second highest in Nevada with a small glacier is not even included (the Highland Ridge of this wilderness is not included) and to really protect this area I urge you to designate 120,000 acres in your proposal, including the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake. 15-9

⑩ Currant Mountain (Duckwater): 49,000 acres need to be given wilderness protection to help protect bristlecone, bighorn sheep and mule deer 15-10

⑪ Grant Range: The boundaries need to be expanded to include 60,000 acres to provide greater protection for the sheep population 15-11

⑫ Quinn Canyon Range: recommended for wilderness by RARE II, protected since 1973, at least 75,000 acres need to be designated to preserve this area. 15-12

The recreational and wildlife values of this forest are outstanding and need to be preserved. 15-13 "Standards and guidelines" for special protection of the bristlecone pine ~~is also needed~~ need to be adopted. 15-14 I feel strongly that construction in or near roadless areas should NOT OCCUR! 15-15

Thank you for considering my requests.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Chan

RESPONSES

designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

PEARL PEAK (#228)

15-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

SCHELL CREEKS

15-7 We have not recommended the South Schell or North Schell Roadless Areas for wilderness designation due to the high mineral potential inherent in both areas.

15-8 Please refer to response number 14-8.

WHEELER PEAK AND HIGHLAND RIDGE

15-9 In reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, several significant revisions have been made on both the Wheeler Peak (#359) and the Highland Ridge (#391) areas. These modifications are depicted in Appendix C of the Final Plan.

The Weeler Peak Roadless Area will hereafter be referred to as the Bristlecone Recommended Wilderness Area.

We agree, and have revised the boundary for the Wheeler Peak (#359) Roadless Area to incorporate the area between the Shoshone Campground and Johnson Lake.

CURRANT MOUNTAIN (DUCKWATER #4-839)

15-10 This area is not recommended for wilderness because of its moderate to high potential for mineral development. Additionally, the area has been determined to have only a moderate degree of natural integrity due to past impacts resul

15-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

QUINN CANYON (#360)

15-12 The Quinn (#360) Roadless Area has not been recommended for wilderness designation due to the high potential for mineral development throughout the area.

15-13 Please refer to response number 14-13.

15-14 Please refer to response number 14-14.

15-15 Please refer to response number 14-15.

16 COMMENTS

SEP 13 1985

#16

Sept. 16, 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nev. 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

I wish to go on record strongly as being in favor of the wilderness areas being supported by the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society and the California Wilderness Coalition. 16-1

The recreational and wildlife values of the Humboldt National Forest cannot be overemphasized. 16-2

Construction or rebuilding of roads in or near roadless areas must be opposed. 16-3

I strongly urge your support of these programs.

Sincerely,

William Metz

William Metz
4321 Bridle Way
Reno, Nev. 89509

RESPONSES

16-1 **The preferred alternative represents a particular management strategy necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives identified within the Forest Plan. Wilderness recommendations are one part of the preferred alternative. The evaluation for wilderness considered the items listed in 36 CFR .17 and are specifically discussed for each area in Appendix C.**

16-2 **Please refer to response number 14-13.**

16-3 **Please refer to response number 14-14.**

17 COMMENTS

RESPONSES

SEP 1[illegible]

#17

Susan L. Schley, M.D.
80 BROWNSTONE DRIVE
RENO, NEVADA 89512

B.J. Graves, Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
Elko, NV.

Dear B.J. Graves,

I wish to register my opinion in opposition to construction or reconstruction of roads in or near existing roadless areas and I support the following for designation as wilderness areas: Jarbridges, 54,000 acres additional; Elk Mtn, 12,500 acres, Santa Rosas 80,000 acres; Rubies, 150,000 acres-- this is an especially important area to those who love the mountains in winter; East Humboldt including private land purchase and then 30,000 acres; Pearl Peak, 23,000 acres; South Schell, 120,000 acres; Mt Moriah, 98,000 acres; Wheeler Peak area 120,000 acres; Currant Mountain, 49,000 acres; Grant Range, 60,000 acres; Quinn Canyon Range, 95,000 acres. 17-1 17-2

I support the "Standards and Guidelines " for Bristlecone Pine protection. 17-3

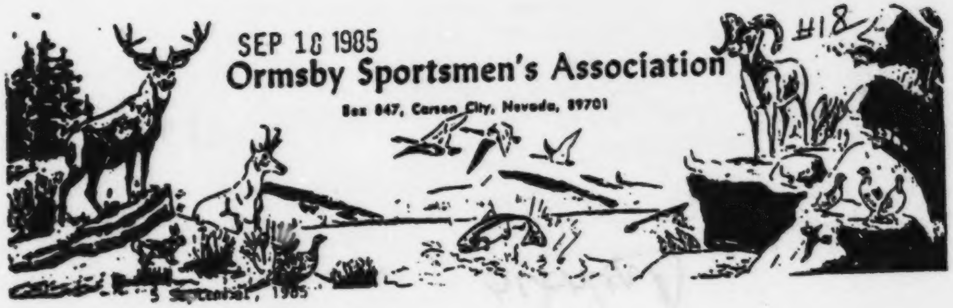
I value these wilderness areas both for selfish recreational reasons plus for the wildlife they contain.

Sincerely,

17-1 Please refer to response number 14-13.

17-2 Please refer to response number 16-1.

17-3 Please refer to response number 14-15.



SEP 18 1985

#18

Ormsby Sportsmen's Association

Box 847, Carson City, Nevada, 89701

5 September, 1985

Mr. B. J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV. 89801

Dear Supervisor Graves,

The Ormsby Sportsmens Association has reviewed the 10 year management plan for the Humboldt National Forest and feels it is grossly lacking in provisions for improving wildlife opportunities and conditions. As the plan is written now, only a slight improvement in habitat has been allowed for. As one of the largest sporting groups in Nevada, we recommend making a major addition to this 10 year plan. The recommendation is to plan for the release and management of Rocky Mountain elk into the Jarbidge area of the Humboldt National Forest within the next five years. 18-1

It is imperative to have the Humboldt plan modified at this time to reserve sufficient grazing land to start and build the elk herd. In addition, including the elk into the plan will initiate subsequent and appropriate action by the Nevada Department of Wildlife to obtain the transplant elk, arrange transportation, and appropriate sufficient funding. As you also know, time is needed to obtain the cattlemen's association agreement and cooperation to carry out this plan. Altering the Humboldt plan will be the first step in obtaining this agreement. 18-2

The time is right for this type of wildlife planning. The vegetation most favorable for mule deer in many areas of the Humboldt Forest/Jarbidge area has been eliminated in favor of grazing grasses for cattle. This has reduced deer populations, but can still benefit sportsmen, hikers and photographers if elk are reintroduced here, since these grasses are prime feed for elk also. The Jarbidge area is also the only area in Nevada where elk were found naturally in the past. A majority of Nevadans agree that reintroducing elk into this area is the right and appropriate action to take. We also believe that depredation problems on surrounding ranches can be minimized or compensated for, and the ranchers agreement to this plan can be obtained. The Ormsby Sportsmen will work towards this goal.

18-1 The preferred alternative represents a particular management strategy necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives identified within the Forest Plan. Based upon public comments we have reevaluated management emphasis levels for certain resources (i.e., wildlife/fish, developed recreation, dispersed recreation and soil/water). Within certain management areas the emphasis level for the above mentioned resources has been increased.

18-2 Transplants of wildlife species are provided for within the Forest-wide standards and guidelines in Chapter IV. Transplants are a cooperative effort between NDOW and the Forest Service. Some concerns outlined in your comments pertaining to NDOW acquiring elk, arranging transportation, appropriate sufficient funding and elk depredation problems on private land are not controlled by the Forest Service and are not pertinent to the Plan.

SEP 18 1985

#18

Mr. B. J. Graves
5 September, 1985
page 2

We hope you consider this change seriously, and agree that this is a necessary addition to make to the Humboldt plan. This will dramatically improve the recreation opportunities in the Humboldt National Forest as opposed to only making some slight improvements. Please reply to the Ormsby Sportsmens Association and inform us concerning the final configuration of the Humboldt plan after it has been drafted. We have an ongoing interest in seeing the elk reintroduction become a reality and will follow your actions intently.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Roger A Heath

cc J. S. Tixier/U.S.F.S. Regional Office
George Tsukamato/NDOW
Willie Mollini/NDOW

19 COMMENTS

SEP 19 1985

#19

September 17, 1985

R.M. "Jim" Nelson, Forest Supervisor
Toiyabe National Forest
1200 Franklin Way
Sparks NV 89431

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko NV 89801

Dear Sirs:

I am concerned about size and number of wilderness area withdrawals and/or designations. They should be as many and as large as possible, and as soon as possible, in my opinion. The opponents' reasoning that "wilderness" means a "lock-up" for use by a few or a small minority is fallacious.

If we are a culture of relative permanence, it is expected that our descendants will live in Nevada for far longer than our ancestors did. If so, most of the public has not yet been born. To me this is the most compelling reason for preserving all of the small fragments of natural environment that we possibly can. 19-1

From this view, I contend that exploiting these choice areas for any purpose by this generation is sheer greed. I can't excuse it.

Sincerely,

Joe Robertson

Joseph H. Robertson
920 Evans Ave.
Reno NV 89512

JHR:yr

RESPONSES

19-1 Please refer to response number 16-1.

SEP 19 1985

#20

Defenders
OF WILDLIFE

September 16, 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

Defenders of Wildlife submits this letter as our comments and recommendations on the Draft Land and Resource Management Plan for Humboldt National Forest. We are greatly interested in the wise management of wildlife and other natural values within Humboldt National Forest.

At the outset, we urge the Forest Service to ensure adequate protection for the outstanding and important wildlife values within this national forest. For example, we support the "Standards and Guidelines" for special protection of the Bristlecone Pine. 20-1 Similarly, we recommend full protection for all riparian habitats, including a prohibition on off-road vehicle use, grazing, and other adverse impacts. Riparian habitats are extremely diverse and productive. They are often vulnerable to adverse impacts, and require strict management safeguards. 20-2

For example, a number of endangered, threatened, and candidate species rely upon riparian habitats for their continued existence. The decline of these species, including the western yellow-billed cuckoo, demonstrates the cumulative loss of these indispensable riparian habitats.

The Humboldt National Forest contains many magnificent roadless areas which deserve and need wilderness designation. For example, please support the Jarbidge Additions, with an increase in wilderness recommendations to include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and the area west of St. Mary's River. Thus, please support a total Jarbidge Additions wilderness recommendation of 54,000 acres. 20-3 Please recommend 12,500 acres for wilderness designation for Elk Mountain. 20-4 For Santa Rosa, please recommend 80,000 acres for wilderness designation. The Santa Rosa Mountains contain the headwaters of both the Quinn and Little Humboldt Rivers, and are one of the most outstanding natural features of northwest Nevada. This area is especially 20-5

CALIFORNIA OFFICE: 5604 ROSEDALE WAY, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95822 • (916) 442-6386
NATIONAL OFFICE: 1244 NINETEENTH STREET, NW • WASHINGTON, DC 20036 • (202) 659-9510

20-1 Please refer to response number 14-15.

20-2 The plan provides direction to manage riparian areas for multiple use and to improve all riparian areas which are in less than satisfactory ecological condition. Specific standards and guidelines have been added and some were revised to provide better riparian management.

JARBIDGE ADDITIONS (#372)

20-3 In reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, areas around Camp Creek and Canyon Creek have been added to the wilderness recommendation. No changes have been made to the boundary west of Mary's River. It lies on a well defined manageable natural boundary and effectively excludes areas with numerous structural range imprvements.

The southern boundary was adjusted to exclude areas having frequent ORV use and numerous structural improvements.

ELK MOUNTAIN

20-4 The Elk Mountain Roadless Area is not recommended for wilderness designation due to the numerous roads, vegetation manipulation projects, and structural range improvements which detract from the area's natural integrity.

SANTA ROSA (#229)

20-5 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Santa Rosa Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of natural integrity due to the many improvements and intrusions and does not have numerous opportunities for solitude because of the surrounding agriculture areas and major highways. We do not recommend the Santa Rosa Roadless Area for designation in the Humboldt's Final Plan. The narrative has been expanded to clarify this rationale.

20-6 Please refer to response number 14-4.

EAST HUMBOLDTS (#226)

20-7 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

20 CONT. COMMENTS

#20

SEP 19 1985

2.

important to protect healthy raptor populations. Please expand 20-6
the wilderness recommendation for the Ruby Mountains to include
the northern portion of the range for a total of 150,000 acres.

30,000 acres should be recommended for wilderness designation
for East Humboldt, the magnificent area in the northeast Ruby 20-7
Mountains. This wilderness recommendation should include the
acquisition of private land in Acker Basin. The wilderness
recommendation for Pearl Peak should be expanded to the south- 20-8
east for a total of 23,000 acres. This pristine area contains
impressive stands of Bristlecone Pine and supports abundant
wildlife. Please support 120,000 acres for wilderness desig- 20-9
nation for South Schell.

The wilderness recommendation for Mount Moriah should be expanded 20-10
to include the southeast portion of the roadless area, for a total
of 98,000 acres. With respect to Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone),
please include the Highland Ridge for a total wilderness recom-
mendation of 120,000 acres. We also hope that the old road
from the upper campground to Johnson Lake will be included 20-11
within this wilderness recommendation. This wilderness could
protect extensive Bristlecone Pine forests, along with many
peaks exceeding 11,500 feet. Next, please recommend 49,000
acres for wilderness designation within Currant Mountain 20-12
(Duckwater). This remote limestone region possesses important
bighorn sheep, mule deer, and other wildlife values.

In Grant Range, please expand the boundaries to include 60,000
acres and ensure protection for the desert bighorn sheep
population. This wilderness could safeguard over 200 species 20-13
of wildflowers and a dozen tree species. Wilderness designa-
tion is also compatible with, and necessary for, the protection
of desert bighorn. As reflected during the RARE II process,
please recommend 95,000 acres of the Quinn Canyon Range for 20-14
wilderness designation. Finally, please oppose the construction
or reconstruction of roads in or near roadless areas until 20-15
Congress has acted on these wilderness recommendations.

Please keep us informed on the forest planning process.

Thank you very much for your assistance and for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Richard Spotts/js

Richard Spotts
California/Nevada Representative
Defenders of Wildlife

RS/js

cc: Zane Smith, Regional Forester
Interested parties.

RESPONSES

PEARL PEAK (#228)

20-8 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

SCHELL CREEKS

20-9 We have not recommended the South Schell or North Schell Roadless Areas for wilderness designation due to the high mineral potential inherent in both areas.

20-10 Please refer to response number 14-8.

WHEELER PEAK AND HIGHLAND RIDGE

20-11 In reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, several significant revisions have been made on both the Wheeler Peak (#359) and the Highland Ridge (#391) areas. These modifications are depicted in Appendix C of the Final Plan.

The Wheeler Peak Roadless Area will hereafter be referred to as the Bristlecone Recommended Wilderness Area.

We agree, and have revised the boundary for the Wheeler Peak (#359) Roadless Area to incorporate the area between the Shoshone Campground and Johnson Lake.

CURRANT MOUNTAIN (DUCKWATER #4-839)

20-12 This area is not recommended for wilderness because of its moderate to high potential for mineral development. Additionally, the area has been determined to have only a moderate degree of natural integrity due to past impacts resulting from grazing and mineral exploration.

20-13 Please refer to response number 14-11.

QUINN CANYON (#360)

20-14 The Quinn (#360) Roadless Area has not been recommended for wilderness designation due to the high potential for mineral development throughout the area.

20-15 Please refer to response number 14-14.

155 FELKER ST #21 #21
SANTA CRUZ CA 95060
17 SEPT 1985

SEP 19 1985

RJ. GRAVES, FOREST SUPERVISOR
HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST
976 MOUNTAIN' CITY HIGHWAY
ELKO, NV 89801

DEAR SIR,

I AM WRITING TO YOU, URGING THE PROTECTION OF SPECIFIC AREAS IN THE HUMBOLDT FOREST. I SUPPORT WILDERNESS DESIGNATION FOR ALL OF THE FOREST; HOWEVER, SPECIFICALLY, I AM REFERRING TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. CURRANT MOUNTAIN : I STRONGLY SUPPORT WILDERNESS PROTECTION FOR 49,000 ACRES IN THIS AREA. 21-1

2. SOUTH SCHELL : I URGE THAT 120,000 ACRES OF THIS WILDERNESS AND RECREATIONAL AREA BE PROTECTED. 21-2

3. MOUNT MORIAH : I AM SUPPORTING AN EXPANSION OF THE FOREST SVC. PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE THE SOUTHEAST PART OF THIS ROADLESS AREA (TOTAL: 98,000 ACRES) 21-3

4. WHEELER PEAK : STRONGLY I URGE THAT 120,000 ACRES BE DESIGNATED WILDERNESS, INCLUDING THE ROAD FROM THE UPPER CAMPGROUND TO JOHNSON LAKE. 21-4

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION!

VERY TRULY YOURS ... KARYN D SKEMP

CURRANT MOUNTAIN (DUCKWATER #4-839)

21-1 This area is not recommended for wilderness because of its moderate to high potential for mineral development. Additionally, the area has been determined to have only a moderate degree of natural integrity due to past impacts resulting from grazing and mineral exploration.

21-2 Please refer to response 21-1.

21-3 Please refer to response 14-4.

WHEELER PEAK AND HIGHLAND RIDGE

21-4 In reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, several significant revisions have been made on both the Wheeler Peak (#359) and the Highland Ridge (#391) areas. These modifications are depicted in Appendix C of the Final Plan.

The Wheeler Peak Roadless Area will hereafter be referred to as the Bristlecone Recommended Wilderness Area.

We agree, and have revised the boundary for the Wheeler Peak (#359) Roadless Area to incorporate the area between the Shoshone Campground and Johnson Lake.

22 COMMENTS

#22

Dear Mr. Graves, SEP 19 1985 #22
I am concerned about the future of the
Humboldt Nat'l Forest. As I understand it, the
proposed management plans don't do
enough to protect many of the presently
roadless areas. Please do all in your
power to protect the wilderness areas. Of
many areas that should be protected, es-
pecially important are the Ruby Mtns -
[illegible] ridge to include northern portion; East
Humboldt - please purchase private land in
Lizzie Basin & recommend it for wilderness protection;
Wheeler Peak, with its Bristlecone pines - include High-
land Ridge & the road to Johnson Lake; Quinn
Canyon Range, which has been protected since 1973.
I could name several other areas, but you
get the point. In a very short time these
areas would be overrun & destroyed for
our children. Thank you. Carolyn Clark

22-1

RESPONSES

22-1 Please refer to response number 16-1.

SEP 19 1985

23

The Wildlife Society
Western Section
nevada chapter
Founded 1937

September 10, 1985

Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Sir:

Overall Comments

While the Forest Management Plan does contain "verbal" provisions for wildlife in sections on wildlife and on range, specific commitments for management actions are lacking. Statements to the effect that wildlife needs will be considered are made throughout the plan but such generalized goals with out reference to specific problems and solutions for those problems seem to indicate a lack of commitment by the Forest for the needs of wildlife. More than just consideration of wildlife requirements is needed before tangible benefits can be realized. Significant problem areas on the Forest where important wildlife needs are currently or potentially in conflict with other resource uses should be described and discussed in terms of conflict resolution. Without more than vague references to meeting wildlife needs, the reviewer is left feeling uncertain as to how the Forest will respond to situations such as overgrazed riparian areas or on winter ranges where deer and livestock are competing for forage. 23-1

No specific commitments have been made to protect or enhance wildlife, with a few exceptions such as cooperating with the peregrine reintroduction and Bonneville cutthroat programs. The plan mentioned enhancing deer winter range but never how, how much, or where. The overall plan includes so many points of concern - timber, mining, wildlife, water, recreation, etc., that unless priorities are stated explicitly - when conflicts occur during management, resolutions may not be consistent with the plan. In fact the potential is great for conflicts to be resolved to the benefit of one interest consistently to the exclusion of all others. 23-2

The various alternatives gave specific acres to be managed for wilderness, specific mileages of roads and trail construction and/or maintenance, and specific numbers of recreational sites. The preferred alternative should specifically be commited to enhancement or protection of certain acreage amounts of wildlife habitat such as critical deer winter range or riparian habitat, etc. 23-3

23-1 The Forest Plan provides direction to guide land management on the Humboldt National Forest. Specific concerns, conflicts, and solutions are addressed on a case-by-case basis within the direction outlined in the Forest Plan.

23-2 The management direction outlined within the Forest Plan provides for the appropriate emphasis level for wildlfie/fish habitat management within each management area. Specific conflicts have to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and the advantages or disadvantages to each resource, as well as public concerns, are considered within the decision making process.

23-3 Within the Forest Plan, each management area has an activity schedule which outlines the wildlife habitat improvement projects that are planned for the next 10 years. The activity schedules for the Mt. Moriah, Schell, Ward Mountain, White Pine, Quinn, and Santa Rosa Management Areas were inadvertently omitted during the printing of the Draft Plan. These schedules have been added to the Final Plan.

23-4 In the Intermountain Region of the Forest Service the decision was made to use values from the 1980 RPA Program for the nonmarket resources such as wildlife. This was done so that there would be some consistency between the 16 National Forests within this Region.

Values other than the 1980 RPA estimates may be considered, but they must conform to procedures outlined in the Forest Service Manual. According to FSM 1971.64(3), "The basic procedure for estimating the unit value of a nonmarket benefit is to estimate the marginal value of the product." In many cases, the other values that have been estimated do not meet this criterion. Again, refering to FSM 1971.64(4), "innovative procedures may be used in addition to standard ones [refering to the values used for the RPA progaram]. However, if values resulting from innovative procedures differ significantly from those of standard analyses, they must be approved by the Chief." (See the April 26, 1982 issue of the Federal Register.)

23-5 The preferred alternative represents a particular management strategy necessary to accomplish goals and objectives identified within the Forest Plan. Wilderness recommendations are one part of the preferred alternative. Wilderness recommendations were based on the quality, suitability, public and environmental needs, and compatibility with the overall management scheme for the preferred alternative.

Based upon public comments and reexamination of the DEIS/Plan, recommended wilderness area boundaries have been adjusted (i.e., acres have been either added or excluded) and two new areas are being recommended for wilderness within the Final Plan/EIS.

23 CONT. COMMENTS

#23

SEP 19 1985

Page 2

General Comments: Draft EIS

The Forest Service uses the concept of net public benefits divided into priced and non-priced yields. Throughout the EIS and FMP this concept is carried through. I feel that not enough consideration is given to the wildlife resource since it is classified as a non-priced yield. Several documents, papers, and reports have been prepared (some in Nevada) that give specific net values to hunter days, fishermen days, recreation days. These values multiplied by present known user days would be a significant value that is not taken into enough consideration. This value is of significant importance to small town local economies. 23-4

Wilderness is not given enough consideration in the preferred alternative. This alternative calls for 350,477 acres to be managed as wilderness, roughly 13% of the Forest. Wilderness areas increase water quality, protect valuable wildlife habitat, and provide for recreational uses and grazing with no reduction in available AUM's. The only negative impacts of wilderness would be reduction of amount of land available for mineral exploration and production. However, existing claims would not lose their rights. Additionally, timber would be less accessible but these areas are presently roadless and not being utilized for timber and the projected needs could be met throughout the planning period from other areas of the Forest. I feel that the preferred alternative K should be revised to include more wilderness acres-closer to the amounts given in the Present Net Value Alt. C (28%) or the Current Management Alt. H (19%). Even with PNV Alt. C (28% wilderness), 72% of the Forest is open to mineral exploration. 23-5

Specific Comments - FMP

II-11, 3a. Management Indicator Species. Minimum viable, current, and potential maximum populations for sage grouse are listed as 3,900, 36,300, and 40,000, respectively. How were these figures derived? I doubt seriously that sage grouse are presently at or near maximum potential levels. Additionally, if "current numbers" were reduced by 89% (down to 3,900) it seems very unlikely the population would still be viable. 23-6

II-12, 3b. Only 600 acres of wildlife habitat will be improved in comparison to 72,328 acres of rangeland improvements for livestock. This difference seems to reflect a strong bias for grazing on the Forest. 23-7

II-14, Range 4. Cordaria draba should be Cardaria draba. 23-8

III-Issue 2. Humboldt Management of Wildlife Habitat. Other than for T&E species, management goals are stated in terms of maintenance rather than improvement. Habitat for many species of wildlife on the Forest is in less than satisfactory condition, and commitments should be made to improve problem areas. 23-9

IV-4, Goal #14. Maintaining current productive level of wildlife habitat. Is wildlife habitat currently productive as possible? Again, is there no need for improvements? 23-10

IV-4, Goal #14c. Improvement of only 150 acres of wildlife habitat seems very minimal. 23-11

IV-4, Goal #16b. Grazing systems will be developed with periodic rest "where feasible". More of a commitment than this is needed to improve range that is in less than satisfactory condition. 23-12

RESPONSES

23-6 In developing the figures of minimum viable, current, and potential populations for the MIS, the Forest Service worked closely with the Nevada Department of Wildlife. We concur that sage grouse populations are not at or near maximum potential levels.

23-7 This section of the plan provides a summary of the existing situation. The 72,328 acres mentioned have already been re-seeded. This was not intended to reflect an acreage figure planned for future re-seeding.

Outlined within Chapter IV of the Final Plan is an activity schedule for resource improvement projects in each management area. The activity schedule relfects the increased management emphasis provided for wildlife/fish as part of the Final Plan/EIS. Range improvement projects are designed to facilitate management of the resource to improve or maintain rangeland in satisfactory ecological condition. These improvements must be accomplished within the standards and guidelines presented in the Final Plan/EIS and, as such, would benefit wildlife, watershed, and other resources.

23-8 The spelling has been corrected to Cardaria draba.

23-9 The statement that aquatic habitats will be maintined has been revised to state, "Riparian areas will be managed in at least satisfactory ecological condition". Our statement that big game winter range will be maintianed at current production levels does not preclude enhancement or improvement of habitat where needed. Within the management direction, standards, and guidelines a strong emphasis for good wildlife management is provided.

23-10 Please refer to response number 23-9.

23-11 The correct figure for acres of wildlife habitat scheduled for improvement can be found in the Forest Action Schedule, Chapter Four of the Plan.

23-12 The goal is to improve all range that is in less than satisfactory ecological condition. This is a firm commitment which is carried through in the Management Direction and Standards and Guidelines found in the Plan. Rest-rotation grazing systems are only one tool available to resource managers to improve or maintain rangeland.

23-13 We agree that the objectives for Goal # 19 are misleading. These objectives have been deleted from the Final Plan. Specific guidelines for resolving conflicts between livestock and wildlife are found within the Forest-wide standards and guidelines section in Chapter IV.

23-14 Please refer to response number 23-12.

23-15 The wildlife habitat improvement acreage figures have been revised and are consistent with those presented in the Forest Action Schedule.

23-16 Based upon review of the DEIS/Plan and subsequent public comments, the emphasis level for wildlife habitat management was increased throughout the Forest. This increase in emphasis will provide for

19

#23

Page 3

IV-6, Goal #19a-c. Apparently, the only measure that will be taken if conflicts between wildlife and livestock are identified on winter range is the development of revegetation projects. It is unlikely this approach will be very effective. Often what is really needed is a change in grazing systems. 23-13

IV-28, 7n. Rest rotation systems will be used if "significant" range is in unsatisfactory condition "if it is feasible" to implement. Again, this clearly shows a lack of commitment to improving range conditions. It almost sounds as if this system is a last resort effort. Some form of rest is essential to certain areas such as degraded riparian zones if they are ever to recover. 23-14

IV-38, Table IV-3. Nonstructural Habitat Improvements (Acres). The acres shown for the future seem minimal (less than 100 after 1990). A description of the amount of acres in need of some form of improvement should be included in the plan so this proposal can be effectively evaluated. 23-15

IV-42, Wildlife and Fish. This section states that all MIS will be maintained at levels that exceed requirements for minimum viable populations. For sage grouse this statement offers no protection. If current levels of sage grouse are really close to 36,300 and the minimum viable level is given as 3,600, then anything approaching this kind of a decline in the present population would mean nearly complete elimination. Management for this species should be geared at increasing current levels, not maintaining fewer numbers. Sage grouse are declining in most western states and particularly Nevada. Strong commitments from resource managers are needed for this species recovery. 23-16

Section IV-46, Minerals. Seismic exploration will be allowed in proposed or designated wilderness only those cases where it will not cause degradation of wilderness characteristics.

Comment: No seismic exploration of any sort should be allowed in wilderness areas already designated as such. Wilderness should be left in as close to natural state as possible. Seismic exploration serves no purpose if you cannot then eventually retrieve located minerals. There is no mining or oil gas activity that can be undertaken in wilderness areas that does not degrade significantly wilderness characteristics. 23-17

IV-64, Proposed and Probable Management Practices for Mountain City Management Area (wildlife). This section states that a fuelwood harvest policy will relfect the needs of cavity nesters. What does "will reflect" mean? Will snags, which are so important to many species, be protected? 23-18

IV-65, Range. Under this section it states that season-long grazing will be allowed only where resources can sustain such use. Where are these areas on the Mountain City district? What vegetation types can be expected to sustain season-long use and still remain productive and viable? 23-19

IV-66, Range. Although water developments for livestock will provide access and escape ramps for wildlife, this is really a token measure in relation to the loss of riparian habitat that can result from the construction of "pit tanks". In the Mountain City district, numerous pit tanks have been developed at the expense of aspen, willow, chokecherry, and other riparian species. Although water is made available on a larger scale, riparian plants valuable to many forms of wildlife are lost. 23-20

greater habitat improvement with a corresponding increase in wildlife populations. MIS will benefit from the direction established within the FEIS/Plan.

23-17 This standard and guideline has been re-worded to state, "Exploration and development of existing leases must not impair the wilderness character". Seismic exploration is allowed on leases that were in effect on an area prior to wilderness designation. However, mitigation measures and special requirements will be used to protect the wilderness values. This exploration is allowed because oil and gas can be retreived from wilderness areas as long as there is no impairment of wilderness (e.g. - directional drilling from outside the wilderness).

23-18 Within the Forest-wide standards and guidelines there are several stipulations which will insure that snags necessary for cavity nesters will be maintained. Please refer to the wildlife and timber sections, Forest-wide standards and guidelines, Chapter IV of the Final Plan.

23-19 We agree that season-long grazing systems may not be as effective in maintaining rangelands in as good a condition as a rest-rotation or deferred system. Each allotment management plan includes a grazing system, management practices, developments, and a monitoring schedule, and is evaluated for costs and benefits associated with it. Due to costs incurred with a more intensive grazing system, season-long grazing may be the most cost-effective. However, the Forest still will maintain its commitment to improve and maintain all rangelands in at least satisfactory ecological condition.

This guideline has been deleted from the Mountain City Management Area section. The Forest-wide guideline which replaces it states, "Implement grazing systems which provide for deferrment or rest where possible."

23-20 We agree that many of the pit tanks constructed in the past on the Mountain City District resulted in some loss of mesic-site vegetation. However, this is not true on a large scale. These pit tanks provide water for livestock and some wildlife species on upland sites away from creek bottoms and riparian areas. Dispersed watering areas for livestock have improved livestock distribution and have decreased livestock use in concentration areas. On most of these pit tank sites willows, cattails, and other mesic vegetation has been re-established. The district has also outlined a program to plant willows and other vegetation around pit tanks where this vegetation has not naturally re-established.

We disagree that escape ramps and access to developed water for wildlife is a token measure. We will maintain this as a Forest-wide standard.

23-21 The improvement of 10 - 25 acres of big game winter range in the East Humboldt Management area is significant when considering the limited amount of big game winter range in this management area.

The Forest develops wildlife habitat improvement projects in conjunction with NDOW. Priorities are adjusted as needed when new projects and needs are identified. Wildlife habitat also benefits

23 CONT. COMMENTS

#23

Page 4 SEP 10 1986

IV-93. Wildlife and Fish. East Humboldt Management Area. Improvement of an average of 10-25 acres of big game winter range and construction of an average of one wildlife structure each year seems very minimal. How many acres actually exist in this management area which would benefit from treatment? 23-21

IV-95. Range. This section states that new and updated allotment plans will incorporate proper use criteria. Does this mean existing AMP's will not consider proper use? Will problems created by overutilization remain unchanged until the AMP has been developed or revised for a particular area? 23-22

IV-125. Wildlife and Fish. Ruby Mountains Management Area. This section states that type conversions in identified sage grouse habitats must leave a canopy cover of 15-20%. Although this may be adequate in terms of quantity of sagebrush, the needs of sage grouse on rangelands go beyond just sagebrush. Type conversions, specifically those involving crested wheat, result in long-term losses of native herbaceous vegetation. Because crested wheat is so adaptable and competively superior to many other kinds of vegetation, it tends to exclude reestablishment of native grasses and forbs. Loss of grass, forb, and insect communities associated with native range may be as significant to sage grouse as loss of sagebrush although the possibility is rarely discussed or identified. 23-23

Sincerely,

/s/ Donald A Klebenow

Donald A. Klebenow
President - Nevada Chapter of
The Wildlife Society

RESPONSES

through improved coordination of wildlife habitat needs with other resource activities.

23-22 In the Forest-wide standards the Plan states, "Update allotment management plans to reflect needed changes in overall management." An additional statement specifies that forage utilization standards will be developed as part of each AMP and that as plans are updated standards of utilization may be adjusted.

23-23 The standard which specified that 15 - 20% canopy cover of sagebrush must be maintained in sage grouse habitats has been deleted. A Forest-wide standard has been included which states, "Sagebrush control will not be conducted on any known or identified key sage grouse range except to maintain or improve grouse habitat." This revised statement reflects the need to maintain various habitat components needed by sage grouse, not just sagebrush.

SEP 1 1985

#24

LAW OFFICES OF
LEONARD & DOLE
220 BUSH · SUITE 1500 · SAN FRANCISCO 94104 · TELEPHONE (415) 981-7800

RICHARD M. LEONARD
STUART R. DOLE

September 16, 1985

B.J. Graves, Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Supervisor:

I understnad that the Forest Management Plan for the magnificent scattered wilderness of this great Forest is now open to public comment.

Please protect the roadless areas of the high ranges for protection of the scattered wildlife and recreation values.

Wilderness Area protection for Wheeler Peak is especially important as a magnificent isolated sample of the high Great Basin Ranges. At least 120,000 acres should be recommended, including the closure of the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake. 24-1

Thank you for your fine work.

Sincerely,

24-1 **Several revisions to the Bristlecone Recommended Wilderness Area boundary have been made. That portion of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Area included within the Highland Ridge Roadless Area has been added to the Bristlecone Area for wilderness recommendation. The Johnson Lake Road above Shoshone Campground was closed and the area included within the recommended wilderness. An area northwest of Mount Washington was excluded from the recommended area as a result of ongoing mineral exploration activities.**

SEP 1[illegible] 1985

#25

B.J. Granes, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

(Mrs/Mr./Ms.) Groves:

The following areas are in need of protection from development. Please support the wild life values of this forest, Humboldt, Toiyabe. 25-1

25-2 thru 25-13

1. Noble canyon (calif-nevada)
2. West Walker, Hoover, Wilderness (calif)
3. Sweetwater Mountains (Ca-Nevada)
4. East Hoover (Ca)
5. Mount Rose
6. Mt Jefferson
7. Toiyabe Range Peak
8. Table Mt.
9. Arc Dome
10. Mt Charleston
11. Excelsior Mts.
12. Jarbidge Additions
13. Elk Mt.
14. Santa Rosa
15. Ruby Mts.
16. East Humboldt
17. Pearl Peak
18. South Schell
19. Mt. Moriah
20. Wheeler Peak
21. Current Mount.
22. Grant Range
23. Quinn Canyon Range

Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy A. Buada
3174 W. Celeste
Fresno, Ca 93711

25-1	The following response applies only to the Humboldt National Forest. The preferred alternative represents a particular management strategy necessary to accomplish goals and objectives identified within the Forest Plan. Wilderness recommendations are one part of the preferred alternative. Wilderness recommendations were based on the quality and suitability of the prospective areas, the public and environmental needs for the area to become wilderness, and compatibility with the overall management scheme for the preferred alternative. Based upon evaluation of the Draft Plan and public comments, revisions have been made in the recommended wilderness areas.
25-2	Please refer to response number 8-5.
25-3	Please refer to response number 8-11.
25-4	Please refer to response number 8-12.
25-5	Please refer to response number 8-4.
25-6	In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.
25-7	It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

COMMENTS

RESPONSES

25-8 The South Sobell Roadless Area was not recommended for wilderness due to the area's high mineral potential, as well as other resource management conflicts.

25-9 Please refer to response number 8-2.

25-10 Please refer to response number 8-1.

25-11 Please refer to response number 8-3.

25-12 Please refer to response number 14-11.

25-13 Please refer to response number 8-7.

26

SEP 19 1985

1:26

1205 Cheyenne Court
Boulder City, Nevada
89005

September 14, 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

I have performed a review of your draft Land and Resource
Management Plan. My primary purpose is to indicate my
general support for establishment of as many designated
wilderness areas, covering as much acreage, as is consistent
with intelligent use of the lands. As you are well aware,
the wildernes resource is in most ways a non-renewable one.
In support of this please refer to the column "R.A. Acreage
Developed Since 1978" in Table C-1 of Appendix C of your
draft Plan. Although the acreage included in this column seems
to also include a significant amount from boundary adjustments
and closer inventory of existing developments, the fact is
that the amount of land suitable for consideration as wilderness
is ever decreasing. The major problem in Nevada at present
slowing establishment of designated wilderness is perceptions
of minerals potential of many of the eligible lands. Existing
grazing activity in newly established wilderness areas is
allowed to continue, and there should be no opposition to the
wilderness designation by rational grazing users.

This rather long preamble has a purpose. Two of the roadless
areas which you have considered, which you rate as having
good wilderness characteristics, and which are rated low in
minerals potential are not recommended for the wilderness
designation in your preferred alternative. These are #226-
East Humboldt and #227-Ruby Mountains North. I want to strongly
recommend your reconsideration of deletion of these areas in
your preferred alternative. I note that the East Humboldt
area's suitability is somewhat dependent on a pending land
exchange; I would encourage your recommendation of this area
under this proviso. The Ruby Mountains North seems to have
only a helicopter skiing operation inhibiting its designation.
I personally see nothing very incompatible between this operation
and the wilderness designation; helicopter skiing makes no
intrusion at all during the period of heaviest use by other
users, the non-winter months, and leaves no scars after the
helicopter departs. Here I suggest a recommendation for the
wilderness designation with the proviso that the skiing
operation be allowed to continue indefinitely. 26-1

26-1 **Based on further evaluation of the Draft Plan, as well as public
comments, the East Humboldt Roadless Area and a portion of the
North Ruby Roadless Area (Soldier Lake) have been added as
recommended wilderness areas. The boundary for the proposed
Soldier Lake Wilderness Area was identified to preclude impacts
from heli-skiing. Heli-skiing is not permitted in designated
wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964.**

#26

RDS to BJG - 9/14/85
Page 2

Additionally, I wish to indicate my support for the areas which you have recommended for the wilderness designation in your preferred alternative. The Ruby Mountains South (#362) in particular has no apparent resource conflicts, and it is difficult to understand its deletion from the bills now in Congress. Wheeler Peak (#359) is such an outstanding area in scenic values that any wilderness system would be incomplete without its inclusion. I would encourage your consideration of as much of the Highland Ridge (#391) area as feasible into the Wheeler Peak area since these areas are separated only by an unimproved road. 26-2

Proximity to large urban areas is of course the factor probably most significant in determining the number of users of any wilderness area. In the case of the Humboldt, the Quinn (#360) and Grant Range (#371) are the closest areas to Las Vegas. I am pleased to see that your preferred alternative recommends the majority of the Grant Range, that excluding most existing mining claims and minerals potential, for wilderness designation. I would suggest that every attempt to make similar arrangements for the Quinn be made. 26-3

I am interested in obtaining more information on the minerals potential, existing claims, etc. in your forest. On page III-33 of the draft EIS you indicate that maps with relevant information are available from your files. Please indicate by return mail how I may obtain copies of these. 26-4

Also on page III-33 of the draft EIS in the paragraph following the reference to the maps on minerals information is what appears to be a rather foolish statement: "Demand is likely to exceed the supply of minerals." This would seem to indicate that removals are expected to be 100% of the minerals currently to be found in the Humboldt during this planning period. You may wish to rephrase this to bring it into line with the generally high standard exhibited by the rest of your work in this draft plan. 26-5

I hope for your favorable consideration of the above.

Sincerely,

R. D. Schillinski

26-2 Please refer to response number 24-1.

QUINN CANYON (#360)

26-3 The Quinn (#360) Roadless Area has not been recommended for wilderness designation due to the high potential for mineral development throughout the area.

26-4 We have responded to your request for minerals maps within the letter dated November 18, 1985.

26-5 We don't agree that the statement "Demand is likely to exceed supply of minerals" indicates that removals are expected to exceed 100% of the minerals currently to be found on the Humboldt National Forest. This comment reflects the ever increasing demand in general for minerals.

SEP 19 1985

Sept. 17 1985
#27

B. J. Graves
Humboldt Nat Forest
976 Mt City Highway
Elko, Nevada

Dear sir: I am a transplant from Michigan where I grew up and lived for over 30 years. All I need to do is look at all the land and forests that have been raped and gouged there, I realize how important it is to save our wilderness for our children.

I recommend all those areas
in California and Nevada be 27-1
considered for wilderness areas. 27-2
Save our lands, keep out the roads &
protect the Bristlecone Pine. 27-3
Elk mountain, Santa Rosa mountains
Ruby mountains, Pearl Peak & this 27-4 thru 27-7
magnificent wilderness should be
saved!

Sincerely
Toni Watkins
31081 Yosemite Spgs Pkwy
Coarsegold Ca 93614

27-1 The preferred alternative represents a particular management strategy necessary to accomplish goals and objectives identified within the Forest Plan. Wilderness recommendations are one part of the preferred alternative. Wilderness recommendations were based on the quality and suitability of the prospective areas, the public and environmental needs for the area to become wilderness, and compatibility with the overall management scheme for the preferred alternative.

27-2 Please refer to response number 14-14.

27-3 Please refer to response number 14-15.

27-4 Please refer to response number 8-11.

27-5 Please refer to response number 8-12.

27-6 Please refer to response number 8-4.

27-7 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

SEP 19 1985

9-16-85
#28

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko NV 89801

Dear Mr. or Ms. Graves:

I recently received a flyer from Sierra Club urging me to write you about wilderness areas in the Humboldt Forest. I normally would not take the time from my busy schedule to write, but recently I visited Lake Tahoe. I was horrified at the difference in that beautiful place that I knew as a child. The only beauty left was government land. I feel very strongly now that government must maintain this beauty for future generations. We citizens appear too stupid to do so!

Therefore, I urge you that the wilderness areas in Humboldt Forest be expanded in the following

28-1 The preferred alternative represents a particular management strategy necessary to accomplish goals and objectives identified within the Forest Plan. Wilderness recommendations are one part of the preferred alternative. Wilderness recommendations were based on the quality and suitability of the prospective areas, the public and environmental needs for the area to become wilderness, and compatibility with the overall management scheme for the preferred alternative.

28-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

28-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

28-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

28-5 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

28-6 The South Schell Roadless Area was not recommended for wilderness due to the area's high mineral potential, as well as other resource management conflicts.

28-7 Please refer to response number 8-2.

28-8 Please refer to response number 8-1.

28-9 Please refer to response number 8-3.

28-10 Please refer to response number 14-11.

28-11 Please refer to response number 8-7.

28 CONT. COMMENTS

SEP 19 1986 #28

places: Jarbidge Additions (Camp Creek and the country west of St. Mary's River), Elk Mountain, Santa Rosa Mountains, Ruby Mountains, Acker Basin, Pearl Peak, South Schell, Mount Moriah, Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone Pines), Currant Mountain, Grant Range (sheep population) and Quinn Canyon Range.

28-1
thru
28-11

I didn't discover the joys of back-packing and cross-country skiing until I was 40. I want to teach my children and grandchildren these joys. It is frightening to me that you can drive half-way around Lake Tahoe and not even see a beach. It is a crime. Let's not repeat that crime in Humboldt Forest.

Thank you.

Vicki Fallon
6800 Havenside
Sacto., Ca. 95831

RESPONSES

See response 28-1 thru 11 above.

SIERRA CLUB THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

SEP 20 1985

#39

URGENT: **CONSERVATIONIST COMMENTS NEEDED TO PROTECT NEVADA/CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS**

29 CONT.

COMMENTS

For more information on Nevada/California wilderness and other forest planning issues, please call: 702/323-3162.

HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

12. JARBIDGE ADDITIONS
This area would add mountain slopes and the drainages of Fox, Pine and Cottonwood Creeks to Nevada's only presently designated Wilderness.
Urge the Forest Service to increase its recommendation to include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and the country west of St. Mary's River for a total of some 54,000 acres.

13. ELK MOUNTAIN
This forested area in the northeast corner of the state is a sportsman's paradise and must have wilderness protection.
The Forest Service should be urged to recommend 12,500 acres.

RESPONSES

Comment # 29 was a hand written note on a Sierra Club brochure. The dimension of the brochure precluded printing without cutting and pasting and thereby distorting its content and meaning.

The comment stated, "Sirs - Been to some of these places and read about and heard about others. If not for their beauty and peace which is substantial, let us set these lands aside for our children's children's children who may need them in ways we cannot envision today. We have consumed more than our fair share for this century."

Signed/ Dr. Marvin Lowdon
3790 Heavenly Valley
Reno, 89509

29-1 The preferred alternative represents a particular management strategy necessary to accomplish goals and objectives identified within the Forest Plan. Wilderness recommendations were based on the quality and suitability of the prospective areas, the public and environmental needs for the area to become wilderness, and compatibility with the overall management scheme for the preferred alternative.

REST MANAGEMENT PLANS

14. SANTA ROSA
The Santa Rosa Mountains contain the headwaters of both the Quinn and Little Humboldt Rivers and are an outstanding natural feature of northwest Nevada. There is a large raptor population and excellent trout fishing. The Forest Service should be encouraged to recommend some 80,000 acres of this remote country.

15. RUBY MOUNTAINS
The glacier-carved Rubies are classic alpine wilderness and a hiker's dream with lakes, meadows, peaks, and excellent fishing and hunting. The Forest Service's proposal should be enlarged to include the northern portion of the range for a total of 150,000 acres.

Fabulous place

16. EAST HUMBOLDT
This beautiful area in the northeast Ruby Mountains has dozens of lakes and the 11,300 foot Hole-In-The-Mountain Peak. Private land in Acker Basin should be acquired by direct purchase and 30,000 acres recommended for wilderness protection.

17. PEARL PEAK
The remote Pearl Peak area south of Harrison Pass in the Ruby Mountains contains stands of Bristlecone Pine and extensive wildlife. The boundary should be extended to the southeast for a total of 23,000 acres.

18. SOUTH SCHELL
The long Schell Creek Range extends for many miles above timberline, reaching its highest point at 11,800 foot Schell Peak. 120,000 acres of this magnificent wilderness and recreational resource should be supported for wilderness designation.

19. MOUNT MORIAH
This superb wild area includes a 12,000 peak, sheer-walled gorges, and excellent trout streams. The Forest Service should expand its proposal to include the southeast portion of the roadless area for a total of 98,000 acres.

20. WHEELER PEAK (BRISTLECONE)
The jewel of the South Snake Range, 13,000 foot Wheeler Peak is the second highest mountain in Nevada and unique in the state because of a small glacier on its north face. It has extensive Bristlecone Pine forests as well as many peaks above 11,500 feet. The Forest Service has failed to include the Highland Ridge of this magnificent wilderness and should be urged to designate 120,000 acres in its proposal, including the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake.

Truly

21. CURRANT MOUNTAIN (DUCKWATER)
This high, remote limestone wilderness in the southern part of the White Pine Range contains Bristlecone, bighorn sheep, and mule deer. Urge that 49,000 acres be given wilderness protection.

22. GRANT RANGE
This huge limestone range culminates with 11,300 foot Troy Peak and contains over 200 species of wildflowers, a dozen tree species and desert bighorn. The boundaries should be expanded to include 60,000 acres and thereby provide greater protection for the sheep population.

23. QUINN CANYON RANGE
This scenic extension of the high country of the Grant Range was recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service in RARE II and has been protected since 1973. Urge that 95,000 acres be designated.

Production: Susan Ives Associates

Sirs — Been to some of these places & read about & heard about others. If not for their beauty & peace which is substantial, let us set these lands aside for our children's children's children who may need them in ways ->

29 CONT.

COMMENTS

RESPONSES

The Toiyabe is the largest national forest in the lower 49 states. It straddles the California-Nevada border and includes large acreages in central Nevada. Your letter should strongly support wilderness protection for the specific acreages described. List the areas by name and mention some specific points about them. Be sure to support the proposed "Standards and Guidelines" for timber, range, riparian areas and wildlife.

Write to:

R.M. "Jim" Nelson, Forest Supervisor
Toiyabe National Forest
1200 Franklin Way
Sparks, NV 89431

Deadline for comments, September 23

The Humboldt is a vast, diverse and dramatic national forest in eastern and northern Nevada. Your letter should list every roadless area, supporting each one for wilderness designation. Please emphasize the recreational and wildlife values of this forest. "Standards and Guidelines" for special protection of the Bristlecone Pine should be supported. Construction or reconstruction of roads in or near roadless areas must be opposed!

Write to:

D.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Deadline for comments, September 30

THIS MAY BE OUR LAST CHANCE TO SAVE TH

Mt. Wheeler
South Snake Range, NV

We cannot envision today.
We have concerned more tomorrow
Sin: Greene for
The Century -
Dr. [illegible]
3790 [illegible] Ct.
Reno 89509
9/11/85

VI-62

SEP 26 1985

#30

BARBARA L. BAER
6195 ANDERSON RD.
FORESTVILLE, CA 95436

September 17, 1985

Mr. B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor,
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801.

Dear Mr. Graves:

I live in California but have had the great pleasure of visiting northern Nevada and becoming acquainted with the Humboldt wilderness. I am concerned at this time that such a diverse and beautiful wilderness may lose some of its lands to private interests. I write to you today to urge your voice as protection of our precious wilderness lands.

Specifically, I urge you to oppose road construction near the roadless areas, for the protection of wildlife and the pleasures that recreation IN THE WILDERNESS, the real wilderness, gives to the visitor. 30-1

The areas that I urge you to protect are: Jarbidge Additions; Elk Mountain; Santa Rosa Mountains--for the headwaters of several rivers; Ruby Mountains; East Humboldt--so beautiful with its lakes; Pearl Peak; South Schell; Mount Moriah; Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone); Currant Mountain; Grant Range; Quinn Canyon Range. 30-2 thru 30-13

I know what I am asking, along with our Sierra Club members, is a great deal of acreage to be put or kept protected and not used for private interests. But I know-and I'm sure as a Forest Supervisor that you know--how important the future of these lands will be if they are left in their natural state. It's easy enough to despoil--alm@st impossible to recover.

Respectfully Yours,
Barbara L. Baer
Barbara L. Baer.

30-1 Construction or reconstruction of roads within roadless areas recommended for wilderness designation is prohibited for all activities except for mining. Since there are no buffer zones around wilderness areas or areas recommended for wilderness, road construction or reconstruction may occur up to the boundary line.

30-2 The preferred alternative represents a particular management strategy necessary to accomplish goals and objectives identified within the Forest Plan. Wilderness recommendations are one part of the preferred alternative. Wilderness recommendations were based on the quality and suitability of the prospective areas, the public and environmental needs for the area to become wilderness, and compatibility with the overall management scheme for the preferred alternative.

Please refer to response number 8-5.

30-3 Please refer to response number 8-11.

30-4 Please refer to response number 8-12.

30-5 Please refer to response number 8-4.

30-6 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revisions is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

30-7 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation . As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

30-8 The South Schell Roadless Area was not recommended for wilderness due to the area's high mineral potential, as well as other resource management conflicts.

30 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

30-9	Please refer to response number 8-2.
30-10	Please refer to response number 8-1.
30-11	Please refer to response number 8-3.
30-12	Please refer to response number 14-11.
30-13	Please refer to response number 8-7.

SEP 20 1985

#31

Dear Mr Graves:

This letter is written to encourage you to include more wilderness areas in the forest management plan. 31-1

It is my opinion that we will all benefit from more roadless wilderness. For example 95,000 acres in Quinn Canyon Range and 60,000 more acres in Grant Range. 31-2

These two are simply an example, I urge you to expand all the area under your supervision.

Sincerely,

Joel G. Selk
5010 Indian River
#204
Las Vegas NV
89103
(702) 367-1765; 385-3373

31-1 Please refer to response number 4-2.

QUINN CANYON (#360)

31-2 The Quinn (#360) Roadless Area has not been recommended for wilderness designation due to the high potential for mineral development throughout the area.

GRANT RANGE

Boundary adjustments were made to exclude areas that were determined to be mineralized and that had existing roads.

Troy Canyon was excluded due to the presence of a road, current mining claims, and the strong possibility of further development. The area adjacent to Troy Canyon was excluded due to high mineral potential and numerous mining claim spur roads existing in that area.

The east flank of the range, including that portion between Scofield Canyon and Rimrock Canyon, was excluded because it has moderate potential for oil and gas development. References in support of this conclusion include:

Sandberg, Charles A., (1983), "Petroleum Potential of Wilderness Lands in Nevada," U.S. Geological Survey Circular 902-H.

Cebull, Stanley E., (1967), "Bedrock Geology of the Southern Grant Range, Nye County Nevada," unpublished PhD. dissertation, University of Washington.

32

COMMENTS

SEP 20 1985

#32

17 September 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada, 89801

Dear Sir:

Not being as familiar with the Humboldt National Forest areas I shall only write about trying to protect the grandeur of this portion of Nevada. It deserves to be saved today for the future generations to know what this land looks like in its natural estate. My comments shall only include a few areas in which I have had some passing interest and familiarity.

The Ruby Mountains certainly deserve consideration in any plan to save this majestic country. Let it be enlarged to to full total of 150,000 acres and try to add on any other land acquisitions. 32-1

The Mt. Moriah and the Wheeler Peak areas are a must to fully protect the 200,000 acres if only to maintain a really stupendous wilderness of peaks, streams and forests, especially the Bristlecone Pines. Plan to give it all one can for posterity. 32-2

Currant Mountain area needs saving if only for the bighorn sheep and again Bristlecones. 32-3

These are but a few areas and there are others that my vote would probably say manage and protect. Designate the maximum amount of land possible, NOW or NEVER! Later on it will TOO LATE.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Dittmer

Harold L. Dittmer
3911 Fernwood Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90027

RESPONSES

32-1 After reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, a portion of the North Ruby Roadless Area (Soldier Lake) was added to the wilderness recommendation in the Forest Plan.

32-2 Please refer to response number 24-1.

32-3 Due to the area's high mineral potential and potential conflicts with traditional Native American pinenut gathering, the Duckwater Roadless Area was not recommended for wilderness.

SEP 20 1985

#33

PO Box 2208
Arnold, Calif 95223
Sept. 17, 1985

B. J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Supervisor Graves:

Please add my voice to those speaking on behalf of wilderness designation for the following areas in the Humboldt: Jarbidge addition, Elk Mountain, Santa Rosa, Ruby Mountains, East Humboldt, Pearl Peak, South Schell, Mount Moriah, Wheeler Peak, Currant Mountain, Grant Range, Quinn Canyon Range.

33-1
thru
33-12

Most of these areas are familiar to me only via the printed page and I am getting to a point in life where it is unlikely that I will be able to hike them as I had hoped. Leaving a heritage of wilderness for those who come after us, I think, is one of the most important responsibilities of our time.

thank you.

Milton J. Frick

33-1 The preferred alternative represents a particular management strategy necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives identified within the Forest Plan. Wilderness recommendations are one part of the preferred alternative. Wilderness recommendations were based on the quality and suitability of the prospective areas, the public and environmental needs for the area to become wilderness, and compatibility with the overall management scheme for the preferred alternative.

Please refer to response number 8-5.

33-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

33-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

33-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

33-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

33-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

33-7 The South Schell Roadless Area was not recommended for wilderness due to the area's high mineral potential, as well as other resource management conflicts.

33-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

33-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

33-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

33-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

33-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

34 COMMENTS

SEP 20 1985

#34

Jeff Stone
PO Box 9
Twain, CA 95984

Sept. 18, 1985

Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

The following are my comments on the draft HNF plan.

I support the all wilderness alternative. 34-1 I also support the recommendations of the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society regarding wilderness protection for the following roadless areas: Jarbidge Additions, 54,000 acres; Elk Mountain, 12,500 acres; Santa Rosa, 80,000 acres; Ruby Mountains, 150,000 acres; East Humboldt, 30,000 acres; Pearl Peak, 23,000 acres; South Schell, 120,000 acres; Mount Moriah, 98,000 acres; Wheeler Peak, 120,000 acres; Currant Mountain, 49,000 acres; Grant Range, 60,000 acres; and Quinn Canyon Range, 95,000 acres. 34-2 thru 34-13

I also support the proposed "Standards and Guidelines" for special protection of the Bristlecone Pine, 34-14 and a fire management program that would allow fire to reestablish its place in the ecology of the Forest. 34-15

I believe that the Humboldt is most valuable for its recreational and wildlife values, and that these values should be emphasized in the Forest Plan. 34-16

Sincerely,

Jeff Stone

Jeff Stone

RESPONSES

34-1 Please refer to response number 33-1, first paragraph.

34-2 Please refer to response number 8-5.

34-3 Please refer to response number 8-11.

34-4 Please refer to response number 8-12.

34-5 Please refer to response number 8-4.

34-6 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

34-7 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

34-8 The South Schell Roadless Area was not recommended for wilderness due to the area's high mineral potential, as well as other resource management conflicts.

34-9 Please refer to response number 8-2.

34-10 Please refer to response number 8-1.

34-11 Please refer to response number 8-3.

34-12 Please refer to response number 14-11.

34-13 Please refer to response number 8-7.

34-14 Please refer to response number 14-15.

34-15 Fire plays an important role in the Forest's ecosystems. However, fire can also endanger public safety and public and private developments. It is the goal of the Humboldt National Forest to balance the needs of the ecosystems and public and private safety in regards to fire. Standards, guidelines, and management direction have been developed which emphasize the need to balance these two concerns.

34-16 Please refer to response number 14-13.

SEP 23 1985

1620
#35

FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS

P.O. Box 19777 Las Vegas, Nevada 89132 (702) 735-0375
P.O. Box 8096 Reno, Nevada 89507 (702) 322-2867

September 19, 1985

Mr. B. J. Graves, Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is concerned about the wilderness portions of the proposed land and resource management plan for the Humboldt National Forest.

We applaud the good work of the Forest Service in recommending 285,810 acres of wilderness in the Nevada portion of the Humboldt National Forest (including some BLM acreage with the Mt. Moriah wilderness).

However, we urge you to support the areas and acreages of the Humboldt that we believe should be included. In particular we urge the inclusion of Currant Mountain, and Quinn Canyon, as well as the Santa Rosas, East Humboldt, Schell Peaks, Elk Mountain, and Pearl Peak. We believe the acreages we support for these and other areas are highly worthy of wilderness designation. 35-1

A copy of our position and a description of the areas is attached, as is a current list of members of our growing coalition.

Sincerely,

Geneva Douglas

Geneva S. Douglas
Chair

3 Attachments

35-1 The preferred alternative represents a particular management strategy necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives identified within the Forest Plan. Wilderness recommendations are one part of the preferred alternative. Wilderness recommendations were based on the quality and suitability of the prospective areas, the public and environmental needs for the area to become wilderness, and compatibility with the overall management scheme for the preferred alternative.

Based upon further evaluation of the Draft Plan, as well as public comments, revisions, including the addition of two new areas, have been made on the recommended wilderness areas. Please refer to the FEIS/Plan for the specific changes.

SEP 23 1985

FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS

P.O. Box 19777 Las Vegas, Nevada 89132 (702) 735-0375
P.O. Box 8096 Reno, Nevada 89507 (702) 322-2867

Friends of Nevada Wilderness urges the U.S. Congress to designate as Wilderness the following 21 roadless areas, representing approximately 1.5 million acres of Nevada's national forest lands or 2% of Nevada's total land area:

Area	Nat. Forest	County
+ Arc Dome (So. Toiyabe)	Toiyabe	Nye
+ Boundary Peak	Inyo	Esmeralda
Currant Mountain (Duckwater)	Humboldt	White Pine
East Humboldt Range	Humboldt	Elko
Elk Mountain	Humboldt	Elko
Excelsior Mountains	Toiyabe/Inyo	Mineral
+ Grant Range	Humboldt	Nye
+ Jarbidge Wilderness Additions	Humboldt	Elko
+ Mt. Jefferson (Alta Toquima)	Toiyabe	Nye
+ Mt. Moriah	Humboldt	White Pine
Mt. Rose (Carson Range & Hunter Creek)	Toiyabe	Washoe
Pearl Peak	Humboldt	Elko
Quinn Canyon Range	Humboldt	Lincoln/Nye
+ Ruby Mountains (Ruby & Ruby North)	Humboldt	Elko
Santa Rosa Mountains	Humboldt	Humboldt
South Schell Range	Humboldt	White Pine
+ South Snake Range (Mt. Wheeler & Highland Ridge)	Humboldt	White Pine
+ Spring Mtns. (Mt. Charleston)	Toiyabe	Clark
Sweetwater Mountains	Toiyabe	Lyon
Table Mountain	Toiyabe	Nye
Toiyabe Crest (Toiyabe Range Peak)	Toiyabe	Lander/Nye

+= also proposed by the U.S. Forest Service in the 1985 Land Management Plans

Friends of Nevada Wilderness also recognizes this legislation will release the additional 2.0 million acres within the 113 roadless areas now under wilderness consideration by the U.S. Forest Service.

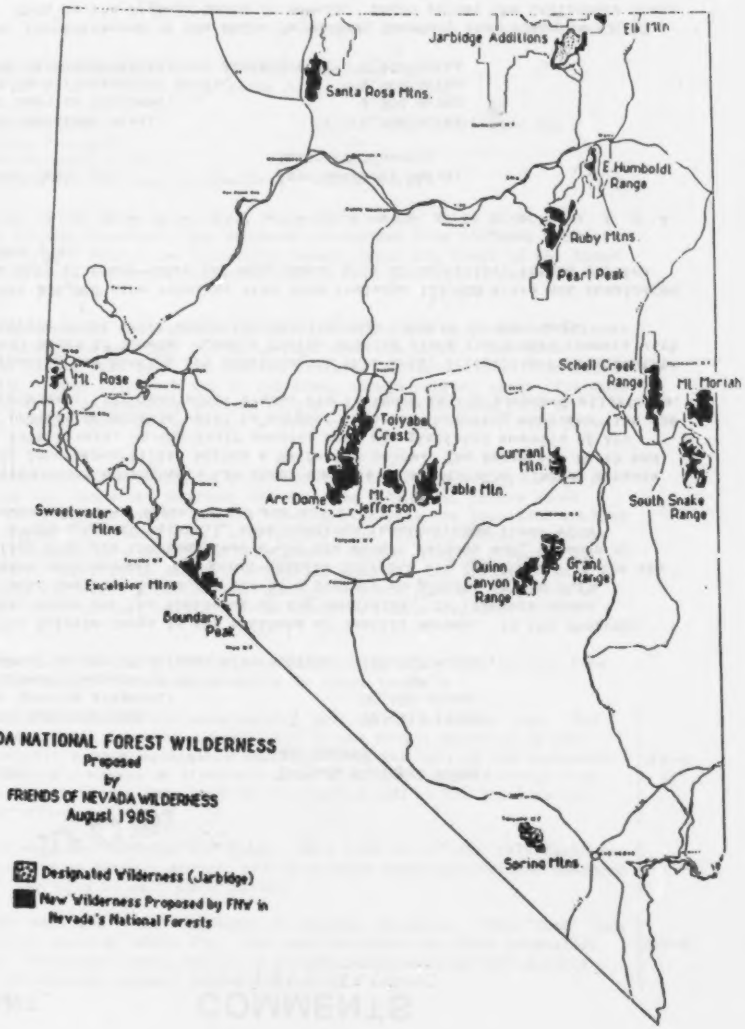
Friends of Nevada Wilderness member organizations supporting the above are:

* Citizen Alert * Evergreen Alliance * Franciscan Center
* Joint Study Committee on the Environment * Kiwanis Club of Golden K
* Lahontan Audubon Society * Las Vegas Group, Sierra Club
* League of Women Voters of Nevada * Nevada Outdoor Recreation Assn.
* Red Rock Audubon Society * Soroptimist Int'l. of Greater Las Vegas
* Soroptimist Int'l. of Henderson * Soroptimist Int'l. of Las Vegas Valley
* Southern Nevada Zoological Park * The Wilderness Society
* Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club * Virginia Range Wildlife Protective Assn.
* Wild Horse Organized Assistance

Written descriptions, maps with proposed boundaries, and photographs of the areas are available for review at the Coalition office, 3511 Pueblo Way, Las Vegas, phone 735-0375.

August 28, 1985

SEP 23 1985


Santa Rosa Mtns.
Jarbidge Additions
Elk Mtn
E Humboldt Range
Ruby Mtns.
Pearl Peak
Schell Creek Range
Mt. Moriah
South Snake Range
Mt. Rose
Toiyabe Crest
Currant Mtn.
Arc Dome
Mt. Jefferson
Table Mtn.
Sweetwater Mtns
Grant Range
Quinn Canyon Range
Excelsior Mtns
Boundary Peak
Spring Mtns.
Designated Wilderness (Jarbidge)
New Wilderness Proposed by FNW in Nevada's National Forests

NEVADA NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESS
Proposed
by
FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS
August 1985

SEP 23 1985

ARC DOME

Toiyabe National Forest
Nye County

Size of Roadless Area:	227,115 acres
Forest Service Proposal:	94,400 acres
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill:	-0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	146,000 acres

The Toiyabe Range is the backbone of central Nevada. To the Shoshone Indians, these are the Biatoyavi or Big Mountains. To ranchers whose livelihood has been based for 3/4 of a century on grazing in the high mountains each summer, the green-mantled Toiyabes are the "island in the sky." They rise over six thousand feet above the desert valleys and, because of their 25-inch annual rainfall, have numerous trout streams lined with cottonwood, willow, aspen, birch and maple.

Wilderness adventurers can stand on rims of spectacular glacial cirques looking into aspen-filled basins a half-mile below. The Reese and North and South Twin Rivers, having their sources near the glaciated summits of Arc Dome, provide dependable water to support wildlife including mountain lion and bighorn sheep. Eighteen other creeks are included in the proposed wilderness.

Fishing and hunting are excellent in this area, attracting recreationists from all parts of Nevada. Gentle trails winding along the creeks connect with the Toiyabe Crest Trail which follows the high country of the range.

The 224,000 acre roadless area here includes 123,000 acres not considered in the RARE II study--they had been dealt with in an earlier Forest Service land use plan.

* *

BOUNDARY PEAK

Inyo National Forest
Esmeralda County

Size of Roadless Area:	8,900 acres
Forest Service Proposal:	8,900 acres
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill:	8,900 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	8,900 acres

At the north end of the White Mountains, Boundary Peak rises to 13,145 feet. This is the highest point in Nevada. South across the California state line an immense granite crest sweeps out--the dry, cold wilderness of the nation's highest desert mountains.

The proposed Boundary Peak wilderness includes the Nevada portion, 8,900 acres, of this area. The California portion was left in further planning by the 1984 California Wilderness bill. From the high summits of this granitic range, alternate vistas of valleys and ranges receded toward the east, while looking west you feel as if you could reach out and touch the Sierra Crest. Winter brings dense snow to the northern part of the White Mountains, and these lingering snows prolong spring through August on the fragile, tundra-covered expanses of Pellasier Flats below the peaks.

* *

CURRANT MOUNTAIN (DUCKWATER) Humboldt National Forest
White Pine, Nye Counties

Size of Roadless Area: 45,140 acres (Duckwater RA)
Forest Service Proposal: -0-
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill: -0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 49,000 acres

The peak of the White Pine range, headwaters of the White River, is 11,500-foot Currant Mountain. The proposed wilderness also includes Duckwater Peak, 11,200 feet. This is an incredibly scenic area: the crest of the range is formed of tremendous white limestone cliffs with beautifully layered strata that gleam in the sun.

This area demands determined explorers, as there are no perennial streams (due to the limestone geology) and no springs near the crest. For this reason, much of the area sees few hunters or other recreationists. The lack of water also limits livestock use of the area, though bighorn sheep live here and enjoy safety from poaching because of the rugged terrain and lack of water. The western part of the range is part of the Monte Cristo Wild Horse Territory.

There are extensive stands of pinyon pine on the lower western slope of the area, and the Duckwater Shoshone harvest pine nuts here. Above about 9,000 feet elevation on north- and east-facing exposures are beautiful conifer forests of white fir, limber pine, bristlecone pine, and scattered ponderosa pines. Still higher is a subalpine bristlecone forest, mostly composed of young, vigorous trees quite unlike the popular image of the species. On exposed crests are older bristlecones, gnarled and sculpted by centuries of wind and weather. Currant bushes are--as the area's name implies--on the crest.

The Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative for this area differs from the Forest Service roadless area boundary in three respects:

(1) Deletes lands on the west-central part of the roadless area. The roadless area extends down the alluvial fan to the Forest boundary on the west. We support a more manageable boundary along the base of the mountains. This also removes a number of livestock water developments and corrals from the area, and much of the area used by wild horses and by the Shoshone for pine nut gathering. 35-2

(2) Deletes the Corduroy Mt. Ridge. This area is off the main backbone of the range. It is heavily grazed, has many range developments, and ranchers drive in to the area to salt their cattle. 35-3

(3) Add back the "road" northeast of Currant Mountain. This "road" runs through a thick stand of white fir. The road was built to allow harvest of the firs for Christmas trees, but it is already overgrown and will quickly reforest. We strongly support protecting the fir forest. 35-4

35-2 Our boundary as depicted on the map contained within Appendix C would provide the most manageable boundary. Our boundary more effectively takes into consideration the Native American pinenut gathering area as well as the numerous man-made improvements.

35-3 We agree with the intent of your exclusion of the Corduroy Mountain Ridge portion of the roadless area. However, the area is not recommended for wilderness because of its moderate to high potential for mineral development. Additionally, the area was determined to have only a moderate degree of natural integrity due to past impacts resulting from grazing and mineral exploration.

35-4 The road corridor northeast of Currant Mountain will remain as an exclusion to the roadless area. Removing the road corridor would not elevate the natural integrity, quality or resolve minerals conflicts within the area.

35 CONT. COMMENTS

SEP 23 1985

* *

EAST HUMBOLDT RANGE Humboldt National Forest
Elko County

Size of Roadless Area: 22,962 acres
Forest Service Proposal: -0-
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill: -0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 30,000 acres

The East Humboldts are a northern extension of the Ruby Mountains. While they contain some of the most dramatic alpine scenery in Nevada, a nearly complete lack of public access has prevented much recreation use in the past. In 1982 the Forest Service acquired a trail access for foot and horse traffic only into the south end of the area, near Stephens Creek.

Now visitors can enjoy fishing in a half dozen trout streams, camping by small glacial lakes, the chance to glimpse a mountain goat, rockclimbing on spectacular ridges, or visiting 11,306 foot Hole-in-the-Mountain Peak (and, of course, stand in the hole that pierces the peak). All this in a setting of heavily glaciated peaks, cliffs, talus slopes, and U-shaped canyons with groves of limber pines and aspens, and high meadows carpeted with wildflowers. 35-5

* *

ELK MOUNTAIN Humboldt National Forest
Elko County

Size of Roadless Area: 12,575 acres
Forest Service Proposal: -0-
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill: -0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 12,575 acres

The Elk Mountain area lies approximately 65 miles north of Wells, Nevada adjacent to the Idaho-Nevada border and nine miles to the northeast of the Jarbidge Wilderness. It is within the Intermountain sagebrush/sagebrush steppe ecosystem, with elevation ranging from 6500 feet on the west to 8800 feet on the east. It is a popular area for big game and upland game bird hunting, and was recommended for wilderness designation by several Elko County sportsmen during the July, 1985 Congressional field trip. 35-6

* *

EXCELSIOR MOUNTAINS Toiyabe National Forest
Mineral County

Size of Roadless Area: 124,590 acres (Nv. portion only)
Forest Service Proposal: -0-
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill: -0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 114,000 acres

From the vast rolling landscape of the proposed Excelsior Wilderness you look out at ranges twice as high--the White Mountains to the south and the

RESPONSES

35-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

35-6 The Elk Mountain Roadless Area is not recommended for wilderness designation due to the numerous roads, vegetation manipulation projects, and structural range improvements which detract from the area's natural integrity.

4

Sierra Nevada to the west. The Excelsiors overlook the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, with Mono Lake at its center.

The Excelsior Range is not the high, alpine ridge country typical of many of the other Nevada wilderness proposals. It is a jumbled, complex landscape of branching ridges, rambling rock ledges, pinyon-juniper woodlands, and startling basins of evanescent lakes.

The Excelsiors have been little touched or explored by modern man. Archaeological evidence is the only sign that humans have ever traveled much of the region. The lack of surface water and developable resources have kept a remarkably large area wild and pristine. Today's visitor sees an untouched Great Basin environment: dense pinyon and juniper woodlands, many small dry lake basins, and native grasses and flowers undisturbed by livestock grazing.

* *

GRANT RANGE

Humboldt National Forest
Nye County

Size of Roadless Area:	53,383 acres
Forest Service Proposal:	53,383 acres
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill:	-0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	60,000 acres

35-7 Within the grandeur of cliff-girdled peaks, the Grant Range contains a natural storehouse of over 200 species of wildflowers, including a rare Nevada primrose, more than a dozen tree species, and both mule deer and bighorn sheep.

The visitor can enjoy this wilderness at any level of physical involvement. But the hiker who reaches the summit of 11298' Troy Peak has indeed met the tests of route finding and endurance, with rewards of grand vistas and the exquisite subtleties of rock shape and form. The Friends of Nevada Wilderness is willing here, as in many areas, to adjust boundaries for the exclusion of major mineral developments.

* *

JARBIDGE WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

Humboldt National Forest
Elko County

Size of Roadless Area:	23,440 acres
Forest Service Proposal:	23,440 acres
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill:	23,000 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	54,000 acres

35-8 Surrounding Nevada's only designated wilderness area are proposed wilderness additions, including the wild and overgrown drainages of Fox and Pine Creeks, and the "pointed fir" country leading up to the peaks themselves. This area is unique in Nevada because it straddles the divide between the Great Basin province and the plateau and deep canyon country of the Snake River drainage.

35-7 The Grant Range Roadless Area is recommended for wilderness designation in the FEIS/Plan.

35-8 After reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, areas around Camp Creek and Canyon Creek have been added to the wilderness recommendation.

COMMENTS

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The Jarbidge Wilderness itself contains the lofty heights of this beautiful area. The additions include the surrounding peaks, tablelands, canyons, and forests needed to complement the central peaks and protect wildlife habitats.

35-8 Guides and outfitting businesses bring visitors up pack trails for hunting, trout fishing, and field study classes. Last year, one of our member organizations, the Sierra Club, worked with a local rancher to urge the Forest Service not to allow construction of new roads into the area.

* *

MT. JEFFERSON (ALTA TOQUIMA)	Toiyabe National Forest Nye County
Size of Roadless Area:	68,570 acres
Forest Service Proposal:	31,000 acres
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill:	-0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	45,000 acres

The massive summit of Mount Jefferson is the crown of the Toquima Range. This isolated summit reaches almost 12,000 feet. The uniqueness of the area is reflected in the scientific interest the area has attracted. More than a century ago, John Muir tramped its cirque-notched slopes and confirmed the role of glaciers in shaping Great Basin mountains. More recently it was designated by the Forest Service as a Research Natural Area for the study of alpine plants.

Last year the largest Shoshone encampment in Nevada prehistory--Alta Toquima--was discovered by anthropologists just below the peak itself. It is the highest Native American habitation site known and has already shown that the natives hunted bighorn sheep and collected limber pine nuts as well as those of the pinyon pine.

* *

MT. MORIAH	Humboldt National Forest White Pine County
Size of Roadless Area:	81,743 acres
Forest Service Proposal:	81,743 acres
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill:	73,000 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	98,000 acres

35-9 Mt. Moriah is Nevada's 5th highest peak at 12,050 feet. Sheer-walled gorges cut into the mountain mass from the east; deeper in the range, streams course through narrow, twisted canyons. A rare cutthroat trout and bighorn sheep live in this outstanding wilderness.

Moriah, just across Sacramento Pass from Wheeler Peak, is much less known but just as beautiful. John Hart (author of Hiking the Great Basin) says of Moriah that, "on the rounded peaks, more than on any other Great Basin peak, you have the sensation not just of height but of deep remoteness, of immersion

RESPONSES

35-8 See response 35-8 above.

35-9 We agree that the Mount Moriah Roadless Area is of high quality and suitable for wilderness designation. It is recommended for wilderness designation in the Final Plan.

In reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comment the boundary for the roadless area was revised. These revisions are depicted in Appendix C of the Final Plan.

6

in wilderness. The North Snake is broad and primitive; the arid valley floors are a long way off and a long way down." 35-9

* *

MT. ROSE (CARSON RANGE) Toiyabe National Forest
Washoe County

Size of Roadless Area: 19,838 acres (The 5,300 Hunter Creek roadless area and the 14,538 acre Carson Range roadless area are separated only by an unimproved jeep trail.)
Forest Service Proposal: -0-
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill: -0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 35,000 acres

Only a few minutes from the second largest city in Nevada lies the Mt. Rose proposed wilderness. This high snowfall area of the Carson Range is reminiscent of the Sierra Nevada to the west, but with a distinctly Great Basin flavor. Open meadow lands, several peaks over 10,000 feet, and ridges affording views as far as Mt. Shasta (200 miles to the northwest) are just a small part of the mountain experience. It is extremely popular with backpackers and hikers from the Reno area.

The Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative is so much larger than the Forest Service roadless area acreages because the Club's is a gross figure and includes intermingled private lands. Also, recent Forest Service land trades have greatly increased their ownership inside the roadless area. These additional lands were not included in their roadless inventory.

The Forest Service also divided the area into two along a jeep route between Big Meadows and Hunter Lake. This little-used track is in no way a road and should be closed. The Friends of Nevada Wilderness proposes leaving open the roads from the northwest corner of the area to Big Meadows and from Reno to Hunter Lake. Both are frequent destinations of local picnickers.

The Friends of Nevada Wilderness also has left the entire Galena Creek face of Mount Rose out of the proposed wilderness. This area has a pending proposal for downhill ski development.

Most of the private lands on the west side of the area belong to Fibreboard, Inc., which would like to exchange them for other forest lands.

* *

PEARL PEAK Humboldt National Forest
Elko County

Size of Roadless Area: 11,656 acres 35-10
Forest Service Proposal: -0-
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill: -0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 23,000acres

35-10 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

SEP [illegible]

Pearl Peak lies about 45 miles southeast of Elko, Nevada in the southern portion of the Ruby Mountains. Elevations run from Pearl Peak itself at 10,847 feet to about 7,000 feet, offering spectacular views of the surrounding valleys, particularly that overlooking the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge. A special attraction to the area is the only bristlecone pine stand in the Ruby Mountains, covering an area one mile wide and running north from Cass House Peak. 35-10

* *

QUINN CANYON RANGE

Humboldt National Forest
Nye, Lincoln Counties

Size of Roadless Area:	99,750 acres
Forest Service Proposal:	-0-
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill:	-0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	95,000 acres

The Quinn Canyon Range proposed wilderness is an extension of the jumbled high country in the Grant Range immediately north. But here because volcanic rocks predominate rather than limestone, there is more surface water in canyon narrows and springs. If wilderness is in part "a blank spot on the map," you will find it here. The peaks and ridges, including the high point at 10,229 feet, are unnamed.

The Forest Service recommended an 89,000 acre Quinn Canyon Wilderness in 1979 because of the high wilderness qualities of the area, despite information showing possible minerals conflicts. The Reagan administration supported making this area wilderness in November, 1981. 35-11

In proposing boundaries for a Quinn Canyon Range wilderness, the Friends of Nevada Wilderness suggests several changes from the 1981 Forest Service proposal. These changes are intended to minimize potential resource conflicts and to maximize protection of important wilderness resources. The changes are:

(1) Delete the northwest corner of the roadless area. This would remove 128 claims from the wilderness (another 37 need better mapping). At the same time, we propose keeping the boundary as low in Willow Creek Canyon as possible, to protect the upper canyon and the trail to the crest of the range.

(2) Delete lands around Water Canyon. This would eliminate 18 claims, and the great majority of 62 more that need better mapping. At the same time, we want to protect the high country between Water and South Fork Cottonwood Canyon, to provide a wilderness bridge for wildlife in the rugged high country between the Nye and Lincoln County parts of the range. This area is summer deer range and has historically been home to a herd of bighorn sheep. The proposed boundary would also protect a spring and a trail corridor between Sawmill Canyon and the northern part of the range.

(3) Delete areas with a high density of claims in Lincoln County. 84 claims can be eliminated by cutting off the land between and around the roads and workings in two canyons on the South Fork of Cottonwood Creek.

35-11 Your proposed exclusions (some of which match exclusions we suggested) would tend to alleviate some of the mineral related conflicts. However, the Quinn Range has potential for mineral development over virtually the whole area. Therefore, it is not recommended for wilderness deisgnation.

(4) Delete the lands between Badger Gulch and South Fork Cottonwood Creek. This eliminates 157 claims while still protecting most of the North Fork Cottonwood Creek drainage.

(5) Add lands at the top of the South Fork Pine Creek drainage. Adding 700 acres or so would protect the crest of the mountain range and a north-south trail without impacting any of the areas of intense interest for mineral exploration.

(6) Delete areas disturbed since RARE II. The Forest Service notes that parts of Big Creek and Dry Canyon on the east side of the range have been disturbed (by mining activity, etc.) since RARE II. Three other incursions were included in the deletions suggested above.

35-11 This leaves a wilderness proposal of roughly 75,000 acres. It includes the scenic Hooper Canyon area in the north, with its limestone cliffs and gorge and its bristlecone pines; the crest of the range and most of the summer big game range around it; most of three major drainages from the crest to the west and a large part of one from the crest to the east, and a transition to the very different country of the southern part of the roadless area.

There are 576 mining claims within the 101,000 acre roadless area in the most recent Forest Service inventory (all data on claims as of 1983).

There are only 80 mining claims definitely inside the 75,000 acres the Friends of Nevada Wilderness proposes for wilderness. 389 claims are definitely outside this proposed wilderness. More detailed mapping is needed to accurately determine whether an additional 109 claims are within or outside the boundary, but we believe that more than half are outside. We are rechecking BLM mining claim records to confirm this.

* *

RUBY MOUNTAINS — Humboldt National Forest
Elko County

Size of Roadless Area:	94,113 acres
Forest Service Proposal:	67,093 acres
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill:	-0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	130,000 acres

35-12 Twenty miles southeast of Elko are the Ruby Mountains. The name alone invokes the correct image: high, multi-faceted, granite-like peaks soaring above lush green meadows and sparkling sapphire-blue lakes.

Nowhere else in Nevada is there such a spectacular glacier-carved landscape, with hanging valleys, clusters of lakes, and snow-fed streams flowing down the U-shaped glacial valleys on the west side of the range. Because they are so heavily glaciated and have such abundant water, the Rubies represent, in many minds, the epitome of classic mountain wilderness.

As such, they attract people of all ages, who come to camp, fish, horseback ride, hike, hunt, snowshoe, and cross-country ski. And they are not

35-11 See response 35-11 above.

35-12 After reviewing the public comments, several revisions were made on the roadless area boundaries and our wilderness recommendation. A portion of the Ruby North Roadless Area (Soldier Lake) has been added as a new area to our wilderness recommendation. Please refer to the FEIS/Plan for the specific revisions in the Ruby Mountain recommended wilderness area boundary.

35 CONT. COMMENTS

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disappointed. The Rubies are a recreationist's paradise. Among other users are Boy Scout groups from Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, and even further away. 35-12

* *

SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS
Humboldt National Forest
Humboldt County

Size of Roadless Area:	70,674 acres
Forest Service Proposal:	-0-
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill:	-0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	80,000 acres

35-13

The Santa Rosa Mountains loom above the Quinn and Paradise River Valleys in far north central Nevada. They capture the water that brings life to a seemingly lifeless land. Golden eagles, perhaps more common here than anywhere else in Nevada, ride the crests of the nearly 10,000 foot range, ever searching for rising warm currents.

* *

SCHELL CREEK RANGE
Humboldt National Forest
White Pine County

Size of Roadless Area:	111,029 acres
Forest Service Proposal:	-0-
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill:	-0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	120,000 acres

35-14

The heights of the Schell Creek Range form the backbone of the Schell Creek Range proposed wilderness. The long and lofty range marches above timberline for miles reaching North Schell Peak at 11,883 feet. Rimrock, talus slopes, and cliffs fall away into broad basins where clear streams run. Elk, mule deer, mountain lion, beaver, and trout thrive in forests of quaking aspen, douglas and white fir, spruce, limber and bristlecone pine.

* *

SOUTH SNAKE RANGE
Humboldt National Forest
White Pine County

Size of Roadless Area:	93,335 acres
Forest Service Proposal:	60,151 acres
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill:	-0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	120,000 acres

35-15

At the very eastern boundary of Nevada, the massive majesty of the South Snake Range looms against the sunrise. Wheeler Peak is 13,063 feet in elevation--the second highest peak in Nevada. It stands 8000 feet above the surrounding valleys.

But Wheeler Peak is only a small part of this area. South of Wheeler, Jeff Davis, Baker Peak, Pyramid Peak, Mt. Washington, and Lincoln Peak all

RESPONSES

35-13 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Santa Rosa Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of natural integrity due to the many improvements and intrusions and does not have numerous opportunities for solitude because of the surrounding agriculture areas and major highways. We do not recommend the Santa Rosa Roadless Area for designation in the Humboldt's Final Plan. The narrative has been expanded to clarity this rationale.

35-14 We have not recommended the South Schell or North Schell Roadless Areas for wilderness designation due to the high mineral potential inherent in both areas.

35-15 After reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments several revisions were made on both the Bristlecone and Highland Ridge Roadless Areas. These modifications are depicted in the FEIS/Plan.

tower above 11,500 feet with clear mountain lakes nestled deep within their shadows.

The well-watered east side of the range is cut by streams, each in canyons lined with willows, chokecherries, aspen, and the pungent aroma of sagebrush giving way to the sweet fragrance of wild rose. High atop crumbling limestone slopes grow bristlecone pines, twisted by centuries of buffeting winds and snow. The oldest tree ever dated was found here: it was 4,900 years old.

A tiny active glacier still chips away at the north face of Wheeler Peak--the only active glacier in the entire Great Basin.

Senators Alan Bible and Howard Cannon proposed making this area into a National Park in the late 1950's, supported by the White Pine Chamber of Commerce. That was before passage of the Wilderness Act, and their proposal foundered because of Representative Walter Baring's insistence that grazing and development of valid existing mining claims should be able to continue in the area. Those uses would be protected by a wilderness designation today, while assuring long-lasting protection of wilderness values.

35-15

See response 35-15 above.

* *

SPRING MOUNTAINS (MT. CHARLESTON) Toiyabe National Forest
Clark County

Size of Roadless Area:	38,370 acres
Forest Service Proposal:	32,000 acres
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill:	32,000 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	50,000 acres

The Spring Mountain Range--fourth highest in the state--is less than an hour's drive northwest of Las Vegas. Here spectacular 11,918 foot Mt. Charleston towers a remarkable 10,000 feet above the sprawling city. The rise above the surrounding lands is greater than for any other mountain range in the state.

Mt. Charleston provides a startling contrast to and escape from the noise, lights, and oppressive summer heat of Las Vegas. Much of the range is densely covered with relict pleistocene forests of ponderosa and bristlecone pines, and firs--survivors of the wetter and colder climate Nevada had in the last ice age. The forests are interrupted by massive cliffs and a range crest that includes the only peaks above timberline in the southern Great Basin. This mountain island is home to 25 plant species and one mammal (the Palmer chipmunk) found nowhere else in the world.

Nearly all the areas suitable for non-wilderness recreation within this unit of the Toiyabe National Forest have already been developed for such uses, so that the Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative offers little conflict with future recreational development. A master plan approved by Clark County for private lands on the mountain strongly controls development there.

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There has never been any conflict between preservation and mineral development here, either in the forest or on adjacent BLM lands.

The Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative includes lands that were not counted in either the 1972 RARE I inventory unit (35,000 acres) or the "backcountry" unit identified in the 1976 Forest Service land use plan (40,400 acres). The Forest Service did not claim that the backcountry unit included all roadless lands--only those for which they recommended management essentially as wilderness in the land use plan. The Forest Service was asked by one of our member organizations, the Sierra Club, to inventory the other roadless areas in RARE II, but the request was denied.

The additional roadless lands in the Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative include:

--Approximately 6 square miles having excellent wilderness qualities on the slopes north of Lee Canyon, and drainages and slopes on the north side of Kyle Canyon. Included in the latter are the outstanding pristine areas in and around Fletcher Canyon and Stanley B Springs.

--Approximately 4 square miles of lower McFarland Canyon and the Mud Springs near the northeastern boundary of the forest, from Mack's Canyon to the abandoned Camp Bonanza Boy Scout use area.

--Approximately 2 square miles of private land on steep slopes near the summit of 11,530 foot Mummy Mountain. This land is being sought for inclusion in the forest through land exchange. We fully support such an exchange. Under the Wilderness Act, such an exchange could only take place with consent of the private landowner.

--Approximately 6 1/2 square miles of roadless lands on 10,018 foot Harris Mountain, south of the Kyle Canyon private lands and the Rainbow summer home area. There have been occasional attempts to put television receiver antennas on this peak, but no mechanized equipment has been used here to date and the area still remains wild.

--Approximately 1 1/2 square miles in the Wallace Canyon drainage on the west slope, because of its pristine qualities. Flash flood hazards preclude any conflicting development here.

* *

SWEETWATER MOUNTAINS Toiyabe National Forest
Lyon County

Size of Roadless Area:	68,112 acres (12,260 in Nevada)
Forest Service Proposal:	-0-
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill:	-0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	12, 260 acres

The Sweetwater Mountains are a unique mountain range unattached to the Sierra Nevada. They begin in Mono County, California and continue north into Lyon County, Nevada, extending from the low, surrounding valleys at approximately 6,000 feet to the high alpine area of Mt. Patterson at 11,679 feet. The crest is distinctive because of the multi-colored, rocky peaks in the core area between Wheeler Peak and Sweetwater Canyon and is an unusual ecosystem with abundant wildlife and several sensitive plant species.

The California Wilderness Act of 1984 continued the further planning status established by Rare II and there is considerable support within California for wilderness designation of the California portion of these lands.

* *

TABLE MOUNTAIN Toiyabe National Forest
Nye County

Size of Roadless Area:	166,920 acres
Forest Service Proposal:	-0-
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill:	-0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	125,000 acres

Looking up from Monitor Valley, the long summit of Table Mountain dominates the eastern horizon. The aspens here are not in groves along narrow canyons: they are in forests. At the crest of the range is, in fact, a table or plateau. You can walk for a dozen miles above 10,000 feet with hardly any climbing. The plateau drops precipitously to the east. Several large creeks have abundant trout, and an elk herd re-introduced to the area a few years ago has tripled in number.

* *

TOIYABE CREST Toiyabe National Forest
Lander/Nye Counties

Size of Roadless Area:	108,320 acres
Forest Service Proposal:	-0-
Laxalt/Hecht/Vucanovich Bill:	-0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	79,000 acres

The 72 mile Toiyabe Crest Trail runs down the high spine of the Toiyabe Range. Two thirds of the trail is in this proposed wilderness, which runs from Kingston to Ophir Canyons. The trail winds its way around the highest peaks and crosses broad ridges with constantly changing views of the valleys and mountain ranges of central Nevada.

A series of peaks just under 11,000 feet loom at the head of deep creek canyons--Washington, Broad, San Juan, Tierney, and Marysville Canyons, among others. Lahonton Cutthroat Trout, a federally listed endangered species, occurs in several of the streams in the canyons, and a small bighorn sheep herd uses the southern part of the area. On the steep east side of the range are the "Wild Granites"--a 4000 foot wall of granite carved by wind and water into spectacular vertical spikes and columns.

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FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS

P.O. Box 19777 Las Vegas, Nevada 89132 (702) 735-0375

P.O. Box 8096 Reno, Nevada 89507 (702) 322-2867

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

Citizen Alert (Statewide)
Evergreen Alliance (So. Nevada)
Franciscan Center (So. Nevada)
Joint Study Committee on the Environment (So. Nevada)
Kiwanis Club of Golden K (So. Nevada)
Lahontan Audubon Society (No. Nevada)
Las Vegas Group, Sierra Club (So. Nevada)
League of Women Voters of Nevada (Statewide)
Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association (Statewide)
Red Rock Audubon Society (So. Nevada)
Soroptimist International/Greater Las Vegas (So. Nevada)
Soroptimist International/Henderson (So. Nevada)
Soroptimist International/Las Vegas Valley (So. Nevada)
Southern Nevada Zoological Park (So. Nevada)
The American Wilderness Alliance (Statewide)
The Wilderness Society (Statewide)
Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club (Statewide)
Virginia Range Wildlife Protective Assn (No. Nevada)
Wild Horse Organized Assistance - WHOA! (No. Nevada)

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Clifford H. Taylor (Las Vegas)
Jeff Van Ee (Las Vegas)
Carol Wachtel (Death)
Ann Zorn (Las Vegas)

September 19, 1985

36

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1620
#36

September 19, 1985

B.J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

I am writing to urge your support of Wilderness Protection for the following areas:

The Jarbridge additions, Elk Mountain, the Santa Rosa Mountains, the Ruby Mountains, East Humboldt (including Hole-in-the-mountain Peak, Pearl Peak, South Schell, Mount Moriah, Wheeler Peak (and all those bristlecones!), Currant Mountain (Duckwater), the Grant Range, and the Quinn Canyon Range. 36-1 thru 36-12

I hope you will support the "Standards and Guidelines" for special protection of the Bristlecone Pine. 36-13 I oppose construction or reconstruction of roads in or near these roadless areas. They are far too valuable in their recreational and wildlife values to be ruined by loggers and the like. 36-14

Thank you,

Pat Boomer

Pat Boomer
415 Pope St.
Menlo Park, CA 94025

36-1 The preferred alternative represents a particular management strategy necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives identified within the Forest Plan. Wilderness recommendations are one part of the preferred alternative. Wilderness recommendations were based on the quality and suitability of the prospective areas, the public and environmental needs for the area to become wilderness, and compatibility with the overall management scheme for the preferred alternative.

Based upon further evaluation of the DEIS/Plan, as well as public comments, revisions have been made on recommended wilderness area boundaries. Please refer to the FEIS/Plan for the specific revisions.

Please refer to response number 8-5.

36-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

36-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

36-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

36-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

36-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

36-7 The South Schell Roadless Area was not recommended for wilderness due to the area's high mineral potential, as well as other resource management conflicts.

36-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

36-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

36-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

36-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

36-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

36-13 Please refer to response number 14-15.

36-14 Please refer to response number 14-14.

1620
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SEP 23 1985

5199 Los Robles Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92008
September 18, 1985

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Supervisor Graves,

I am writing to add my endorsement to the Sierra Club's plans for wilderness protection in those areas underlined in the enclosed mailer. Thank you for your consideration in establishing these wilderness areas. 37-1

Sincerely yours,

Stephen C. Stults
Stephen C. Stults

37-1 **Please refer to response number 36-1, first paragraph.**

JL

1620
#38

SEP 23 1985

Leonard J. Choate
1505 Cherrywood Drive
Modesto, California 95350

Sept. 19, 1985

Mr. B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV. 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

As you work on your forest plan, I urge you to suppose maximum wilderness area and to keep roadless areas roadless. 38-1

We have a special need to do this with future generations in mind. They will appreciate our farsightedness. They will not think much of "cut over", grazed over or "roaded over" patches of forest.

You have the opportunity to help save wilderness areas in Nevada. I hope you will.

All proposed areas have merit, of course. But the Rubies certainly are special. 38-2

Please heed the "Standards & Guidelines" for special protection of the Bristlecone Pine. 38-3

Cordially yours,
Leonard J. Choate

38-1 Please refer to response number 36-1, first paragraph.

38-2 After reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, several revisions were made regarding the roadless area. A portion of Ruby North Roadless Area (Soldier Lake) has been added to our wilderness recommendation. Several revisions were made to the Ruby Mountain Proposed Wilderness Area. Please refer to FEIS/Plan for a description of the specific revisions.

38-3 We appreciate your concern for the protection of bristlecone pine. The standards and guidelines presented within the Forest Plan will provide for adequate protection of these trees.

SEP 23 1985

1020
39

14960 Leigh Ave
S J Ca 95124
Sept 18, 1985

B. J. Groves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt Nat. Forest
976 Mt. City Highway
Elko Nev 89801

Dear Mr. Groves,

I'm requesting that you do all that's possible to support wilderness protection for the Jarbidge addition, Elk Mountain, Santa Rosa, Ruby Mts., East Humboldt, Pearl Peak, South Schell, Mt. Moriah, Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone) Currant Mt., Grant Range, Quinn Canyon Range

In these diverse lands are located all or some of the following values:

39-1 thru 39-12

39-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

39-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

39-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

39-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

39-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

39-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

39-7 The South Schell Roadless Area was not recommended for wilderness due to the area's high mineral potential, as well as other resource management conflicts.

39-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

39-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

39-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

39-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

39-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

39 CONT. **COMMENTS**

RESPONSES

scenic, hiking, recreation, feeding raptors, gliders, bristlecone pine, desert big horn, headwaters of the Little Humboldt river. These lands were not included in the recent plan for the creation of land to be set aside for possible wilderness protection.

If action is not taken now they may never become wilderness. Current forest planning could protect these areas.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Muriel King

1620
#40

SEP 23 1985

B.J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humbolt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr Graves:

I support more wilderness in the Humbolt National Forest. There are many beautiful areas that need to be included in Forest Service wilderness protection. 40-1

I would like to see the Ruby Mountains expanded in the wilderness area. They should be expanded to 150,000 beautiful acres of land in Nevada. 40-2

The spectacular Pearl Peak should be protected in Ruby Mountains. Some 23,000 acres. 40-3

The Grant Range should be expanded for its hundreds of species of wildflowers and trees. An expansion to 60,000 acres would provide better protection for the desert bighorn sheep in the area. 40-4

The Quinn Canyon Range was recommended for wilderness in RARE II and their 95,000 acres should be added as a beautiful high country exteneion of the Grant Range. 40-5

There are many others that should also be included in wilderness protection. They are: Currant Mountain (49,000 acres), Wheeler Park (120,000 acres), South Schell Range (120,000 acres), East Humbolt (30,000 acres), Santa Rosa (these 80,000 remote acres need protection), and the Jarbidge Additions (54,000 acres) including Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek and the country west of St. Mary's River. 40-6 thru 40-11

All these areas are important to keep as wilderness for future generations to enjoy. It is important that the "Standards and Guidelines for timber, range, riparian areas and wildlife" be adhered to. 40-12

Sincererly,

Kenneth S. Post
Kenneth S. Post
8601 Larthorn Dr.
Huntington Beach, CA 92646

40-1 Please refer to response number 4-2.

40-2 Please refer to response number 8-4.

40-3 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

40-4 Please refer to response number 14-11.

40-5 Please refer to response number 8-7.

40-6 Please refer to response number 8-3.

40-7 Please refer to response number 8-1.

40-8 The South Schell Roadless Area was not recommended for wilderness due to the area's high mineral potential, as well as other resource management conflicts.

40-9 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

40-10 Please refer to response number 8-12.

40-11 Please refer to response number 8-5.

40-12 The Forest-wide standards and guidelines were developed to resolve public issues and management concerns and to direct management practices to accomplish Forest goals and objectives. The standards and guidelines will be adhered to.

41 COMMENTS

IGAO
#41

SEP 23 1985

DEAR SIR-

AS PERTAINS TO THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST -

I AM AGAINST FURTHER DEVELOPMENT BY OFF ROAD VEHICLES OIL - MINING - TIMBER - RANCHING INTERESTS! 41-1

WE'VE ALREADY LOST TOO MUCH OF THE WILDERNESS OF THIS COUNTRY. LETS NOW STRIVE TO KEEP WHAT WE HAVE LEFT!

SINCERELY

Leon Kind

LEON L. KIND
880 CANOSA AVE.
LAS VEGAS, NEV.
89104

RESPONSES

41-1 Please refer to response number 4-2.

1620
#42

SEP 23 1985

1405-224 East Vegas Valley Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89109
September 19, 1985

B. J. Graves
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mtn. City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

I'm writing to let you know that my wife and I enjoy and strongly support the establishment of selected but extensive wilderness areas. Although we are not members, we agree with the area proposals of Friends of Nevada Wilderness.

42-1 We like to hike and picnic in the mountains and find the rugged beauty, fresh air, wildlife, and remoteness from civilization very beneficial psychologically. Visiting the wilderness is an exhilarating and rejuvenating experience for us. Even though we haven't been to all of the wilderness areas, just knowing there are pristine areas being protected for the present and future generations is a comfort and grounds for optimism.

Living and working in Las Vegas, we visit the Spring Mountains the most often and hike the trails in the Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston areas. We have also visited the Ruby Mountains, Schell Creek Range, and Wheeler Peak. In the near future we would like to visit the wilderness areas proposed for central Nevada. We are impressed by the pictures we've seen in Nevada Magazine and in the slides taken by others.

We urge you to strongly support the wilderness area proposals of Friends for Nevada Wilderness.

Sincerely,

Jerry & Mary Lorenz

P.S. Thanks for your interest in preserving Nevada's wilderness.

42-1 The preferred alternative represents a particular management strategy necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives identified within the Forest Plan. Wilderness recommendations are one part of the preferred alternative. Wilderness recommendations were based on the quality, suitability, public and environmental needs, and compatibility of areas with the overall management scheme of the preferred alternative.

COMMENTS

16-20
lt: 43

SEP 23 1985

Sept. 19, 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

I want to strongly commend the Forest Service for identifying five areas in the Humboldt National Forest as deserving of Wilderness status. They are of special importance to the state and the nation as watersheds, wildlife habitat and biological banks, as well as their scenic beauty. This is based on what I have read and on the fact that I have visited all but Jarbidge.

However, I believe the Forest Service has been too conservative and too timid in its forest management plan. The following additions should be made to protect our national outdoor capital assets while there is still time to leave this heritage unspoiled to future generations.

The Jarbidge Wilderness should be expanded to include the headwaters of Canyon Creek, Camp Creek and the area west of St. Mary's River. 43-1

The Wheeler Peak area should include the Highland Range, increasing the acreage to 120,000. 43-2

The Ruby Mountain Wilderness proposal should be enlarged to take in the northern portion of the range, bringing the total to 150,000 acres. 43-3

Mount Moriah should be increased to 98,000 acres by taking in the southeast portion of the roadless area, and the Grant Range recommendation should provide better protection for the bighorn sheep with an expansion to 60,000 acres. 43-4

Seven magnificent areas, Currant Mountain, East Humboldt Range, Elk Mountain, Pearl Peak, Quinn Canyon Range, Santa Rosa Mountains and the South Schell Range, have been left out of Wilderness recommendations, but should be included. 43-5 Thru 43-11

Sincerely yours,
Bill Vincent
Bill Vincent
105 Palm Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89101

RESPONSES

43-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

43-2 Please refer to response number 8-1.

43-3 Please refer to response number 8-4.

43-4 Please refer to response numbers 8-2 and 14-11.

43-5 Please refer to response number 8-3.

43-6 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

43-7 Please refer to response number 8-11.

43-8 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

43-9 Please refer to response number 8-7.

43-10 Please refer to response number 8-12.

43-11 The South Schell Roadless Area was not recommended for wilderness due to the area's high mineral potential, as well as other resource management conflicts.

1620
#44

SEP 23 1985

ELKO BIGHORN SHEEP UNLIMITED
A Non-profit Corporation
P.O. Box 2233
Elko, Nevada 89801

September 18, 1985

Mr. B. J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves,

Elko Bighorn Sheep Unlimited wishes to comment on the draft environmental impact statement and proposed forest plan for the Humboldt National Forest.

We would first like to describe our organization and the goals and objectives for which we were formed. We are a non-profit, tax-exempt organization incorporated in 1984. Our objective is to see that various big game species, such as Elk and Bighorn Sheep are reintroduced into habitat they have historically occupied in Northeastern Nevada. We also wish to augment existing populations of big game animals, principally Pronghorn Antelope and Rocky Mountain Goat, currently present but in low numbers. We believe our effort, in cooperation with state and federal wildlife management agencies, will greatly enhance the aesthetic value of the outdoor experience available in this area.

In reviewing the nine alternatives for managing the forest lands and resources, we found them to be very complacent in their support of wildlife. For this reason we do not support any particular alternative or designation, of forest lands. We do wish to insure that any alternative or designation, for example, wilderness, will not preclude the introduction, reintroduction or augmentation of other big game species such as Bighorn Sheep, Elk, Rocky Mountain Goat or Pronghorn Antelope. 44-1

Habitat allocation to these species is of utmost importance and should be improved to support maximum numbers of animals. Forest Service complacency concerning this is exemplified by the fact that the M.I.S. are to be 44-2 managed at present levels under most alternatives. Why is this? Why 44-3 does the B.L.M. intend to manage for a reasonable growth of big game animals but the Forest Service seems to want to maintain present population levels? It is incongruous that two federal agencies managing the same animal species cannot coordinate their policies for mutually beneficial results. 44-4

As mentioned above, habitat is important. Will it be improved or protected in order to support maximum numbers of big game species on the forest? 44-5 Once demonstrated use patterns for reintroduced animals have been identified, will the Forest Service protect these areas from exploitation or conflict by domestic animals? 44-6

44-1 Transplants (introductions, re-introductions and augmentations) of species will be considered appropriate where a vacant niche has been identified and conflicts with other resources are minimal or can be mitigated. However, the Wilderness Act of 1964 requires that in designated wilderness only re-introductions can take place.

44-2 Forage allocation was not made in the plan because big game and livestock are not competing for the available forage. In the case of bighorn sheep and Rocky Mountain goats their habitats are almost exclusive of livestock. Although there is a dietary overlap with elk, antelope and livestock, it has not been identified as a problem on the Forest. Studies are conducted annually on grazing allotments to determine proper stocking levels of livestock. Adjustments are then made in livestock numbers which allows an improvement in range conditions, which will benefit big game species.

44-3 Based upon public comments we re-evaluated the management emphasis level for certain resources including wildlife/fish habitat management. Within certain management areas the emphasis level, as mentioned above, has been increased. This means MIS will be managed at a level above the present situation.

44-4 Please refer to response number 44-3.

44-5 Our intention is to improve habitat conditions which should increase the numbers of big game. However, much of the limiting habitat such as key deer winter range is not located on National Forest administered lands.

44-6 An environmental analysis is prepared for each re-introduction of wildlife species evaluating the effects of the proposal on all other resources. A target population is also established for the wildlife species being introduced on which management will be based. The Forest Service is committed to managing the wildlife habitat for that established population and mitigating any conflicts with livestock.

44 CONT. COMMENTS

-2-

44-7 As an organization concerned with wildlife, we expect to be involved in the management of big game animals on the Humboldt National Forest. How can we best accomplish this? We are willing to contribute to the solutions and share responsibilities in order to achieve our stated goals.

Thank you for allowing us to respond to your proposed forest plan.

Sincerely,

Scott Oxborrow

Scott Oxborrow
President, Elko Bighorn Sheep Unlimited

SO/pac

RESPONSES

44-7 **We are always available and willing to work with the Elko Bighorn Sheep Unlimited group. If you would like an update of our activities we could have a representative attend your meetings as requested. We work very closely with the Nevada Department of Wildlife in coordinating projects and activities. All proposals for re-introduction of wildlife species comes from or through the Department so it would be advisable for you to work directly with them. We have added your group to our mailing list to receive copies of our annual projects. You can choose the ones that you want to be involved in and let us know.**

1620
#45

9-18-85

SEP 23 1985

MR B. J. GRAVES
FOREST SUPERVISOR
HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST
976 MOUNTAIN CITY HWY
ELKO NEVADA 89801

DEAR MR GRAVES

I AM WRITING IN SUPPORT OF A SIERRA CLUB PROPOSAL FOR AN EXPANDED WILDERNESS AREA.

45-1 I BELIEVE IT IS VITAL TO PRESERVE & PROTECT A REASONABLE WILDERNESS AREA FOR FUTURE GENERATION PARTICULARLY IN NEVADA WHERE ALMOST YEARLY THE MILITARY, NUCLEAR WASTE AGENCY, OR OTHERS ARE ADVANCING PROPOSALS FOR CLOSING VAST AREAS OF NEVADA LAND TO THE PUBLIC.

SINCERELY
Gerald Purdy
1452 GLENWOOD DR.
GARDNERVILLE NEV
89410

45-1 Please refer to response number 42-1.

46 COMMENTS

RESPONSES

11-20
#46

SEP 23 1985

COMMISSIONERS
WILLIAM B. GIBBS
ERNIE HALL
ROY F. SMITH

GEORGE R. E. BOUCHER
COUNTY MANAGER
(702) 738-5398

Board of County Commissioners
ELKO COUNTY COURTHOUSE
ELKO, NEVADA 89801

September 20, 1985

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

ATTN: B.J. Graves
Forest Supervisor

RE: 1920-Proposed Forest Plan

Dear Mr. Graves:

The Board of County Commissioners have reviewed the Proposed Forest Plan as it relates to the County of Elko. Since Alternate K - Preferred Alternative is the desired pursuit by the U.S. Forest Service, the County review was concentrated on this alternative.

The basic response to Alternate K is the County of Elko does not have any problem with what is proposed except in the area of wilderness. Alternate K recommends two roadless areas in Elko County to be designated wilderness areas. The Ruby Mountains for 67,093 acres and Jarbidge23,440 acres in addition to the already existing wilderness area. The Board of County Commissioners are already on record opposing any additional wilderness areas on Forest Service lands within Elko County. Therefore, the Board notes for the record thay are opposed to the wilderness recommendations set forth in Alternate K. 46-1

Please advise if there are questions relating to the County of Elko comment.

Sincerely yours,
George R. E. Boucher
GEORGE R.E. BOUCHER
Elko County Manager

GREB/lm

46-1 The preferred alternative represents a particular management strategy necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives identified within the Forest Plan. Wilderness recommendations are one part of the preferred alternative. Wilderness recommendations are based on the quality, suitability, public and environmental needs, and compatibility of areas with the overall management scheme of the preferred alternative.

B1620
#47

Elsa M. Crumpley ☐ Forrest B. Crumpley
16464 Shady View Lane, Los Gatos, California 95030

SEP 23 1985

Sept. 18, 1985

Dear Mr. Graves:

I am concerned, along with the Sierra Club and other conservationist groups, with protection of our national forest lands. In particular, I support inclusion in the management plan for Humboldt National Forest of thousands of roadless acres as wilderness areas.

47-1

I urge you to include this recommendation for Jarbidge Additions, Elk Mt., Santa Rosa Mts., Ruby Mts., East Humboldt, Pearl Peak, South Schell, Mt. Moriah, Wheeler Peak, Currant Mt., Grant Range, Quinn Canyon Range.

These scenic areas should be protected as watershed, recreational use, environmental study and protection, archaeological studies, etc., for the use of the public.

47-2
thru
47-13

Please include these recommendations in your plan. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,
Elsa Crumpley

47-1 Please refer to response number 46-1.

47-2 Please refer to response number 8-5.

47-3 Please refer to response number 8-11.

47-4 Please refer to response number 8-12.

47-5 Please refer to response number 8-4.

47-6 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

47-7 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

47-8 The South Schell Roadless Area was not recommended for wilderness due to the area's high mineral potential, as well as other resource management conflicts.

47-9 Please refer to response number 8-2.

47-10 Please refer to response number 8-1.

47-11 Please refer to response number 8-3.

47-12 Please refer to response number 14-11.

47-13 Please refer to response number 8-7.

48

COMMENTS

11-20
#48

SEP 23 1985

Sept. 20, 1985

Dear Mr. Graves,

I advocate the adoption of a forest management plan with strong wilderness protection features to preserve the Humboldt National Forest. 48-1

I urge the Forest Service to include:

1) 54,300 acres of Jarbidge additions 48-2
2) 12,500 acres N. Elk Mt. 48-3
3) 80,000 acres of the Santa Rosa Mts. 48-4
4) 150,000 acres in Ruby Mts. 48-5
5) 30,000 acres of the East Humboldt for wilderness 48-6
6) 23,000 acres Pearl Pk (southeast) to help preserve Bristlecone Pine + wildlife 48-7
7) 120,000 acres of S. Schell 48-8
8) 98,000 roadless acres Mt. Moriah 48-9
9) 120,000 acres of Wheeler Pk - including Bristlecone Pine forests 48-10
10) 49,000 acres of Currant Mt: - wilderness protection 48-11
11) 60,000 acres of Grant Range 48-12
12) 95,000 acres of Quinn Canyon Range 48-13

I strongly support "Standards + Guidelines" for special protection of the Bristlecone Pine. 48-14 I strongly oppose construction/reconstruction of roads in or near the roadless areas. 48-15

Sincerely,

RESPONSES

48-1 Please refer to response number 4-2.

48-2 Please refer to response number 8-5.

48-3 Please refer to response number 8-11.

48-4 Please refer to response number 8-12.

48-5 Please refer to response number 8-4.

48-6 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

48-7 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

48-8 The South Schell Roadless Area was not recommended for wilderness due to the area's high mineral potential, as well as other resource management conflicts.

48-9 Please refer to response number 8-2.

48-10 Please refer to response number 8-1.

48-11 Please refer to response number 8-3.

48-12 Please refer to response number 14-11.

48-13 Please refer to response number 8-7.

48-14 Please refer to response number 14-15.

48-15 Please refer to response number 14-14.

1620
#44

SIERRA CLUB - REDWOOD CHAPTER
~~P. O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, Ca. 95402~~
SIERRA CLUB - REDWOOD CHAPTER
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Ron Guenther
29980 Highway 20
Fort Bragg, California 95437

SEP 23 1985

September 19, 1985

B.J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

RE: Draft Humboldt National Forest Management Plan

Dear Mr. Graves:

The Sierra Club - Redwood Chapter's over 5,000 members are deeply concerned for National Forest planning. This national planning process for our forests has become one of the Chapter's highest priorities. We believe that the Humboldt National Forest, with its vast, diverse, and dramatic natural features, is an especially important planning area. Humboldt's recreational and wildlife values are outstanding. We have these recommendations:

1) That "Standards & Guidelines" for special protection of the Bristlecone Pine be implemented and enforced on the forest; and, 49-1

2) Construction or reconstruction of roads in or near roadless areas be prohibited. 49-2

In addition, we have these special wilderness concerns:

Jarbidge Additions - We urge that 54,000 acres of this area, including Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and the country west of Saint Mary's River, be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System. We support the addition of mountain slopes and the drainages of Fox, Pine and Cottonwood Creeks to Nevada's only presently designated Wilderness. 49-3

. . . To explore, enjoy and preserve the nation's forests, waters, wildlife, and wilderness . .

49-1 Please refer to response number 14-15.

49-2 Please refer to response number 14-14.

49-3 After reviewing the public comments, areas around Camp Creek and Canyon Creek have been added to the wilderness recommendation. No changes have been made to the boundary west of Mary's River. It lies on a well-defined manageable natural boundary and effectively excludes areas with numerous structural range improvements.

49 CONT.

COMMENTS

-2-

Elk Mountain - We urge that 12,500 acres be designated wilderness to protect outstanding wildlife and recreational values. 49-4

Santa Rosa - We urge that 80,000 acres be designated wilderness to protect the headwaters of both the Quinn and Little Humboldt Rivers, an important trout fishery, and a large raptor population. 49-5

Ruby Mountains - We urge that 150,000 acres be designated wilderness to protect outstanding scenery, recreational values, lakes, meadows, peaks, and wildlife values. 49-6

East Humboldt - We urge that 30,000 acres, including private land in the Acker Basin, be designated wilderness to protect the dozens of lakes and recreational values centered on 11,300-foot Hole-In-The-Mountain Peak. 49-7

Pearl Peak - We urge that the proposed wilderness boundary be extended to the southeast for a total Pearl Peak Wilderness of 23,000 acres. Bristlecone Pine stands and extensive wildlife values are especially important wilderness considerations. 49-8

South Schell - We urge that 120,000 acres of this magnificent wilderness and recreational resource be designated wilderness, focusing on 11,800-foot Schell Peak. 49-9

Mount Moriah - We urge that the proposed wilderness boundary be expanded to include the southeast portion of the roadless area for a total of 98,000 acres. A 12,000-foot mountain peak, sheer-walled gorges, and excellent trout streams are especially important wilderness considerations. 49-10

Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone) - We urge that 120,000 acres, including Highland Ridge and the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake, be designated wilderness to protect 13,000-foot Wheeler Peak, its unique glacier, many other peaks above 11,500 feet, and extensive Bristlecone Pine forests. 49-11

Currant Mountain (Duckwater) - We urge that 49,000 acres be designated wilderness to permanently protect limestone soils and plant communities, Bristlecone Pine stands, Desert bighorn and mule deer habitat. 49-12

RESPONSES

49-4 Please refer to response number 8-11.

49-5 Please refer to response number 8-12.

49-6 A portion of the Ruby North Roadless Area (Soldier Lake) has been recommended for wilderness within the FEIS/Plan.

49-7 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

49-8 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

49-9 The South Schell Roadless Area was not recomended for wilderness due to the area's high mineral potential, as well as other resource management conflicts.

49-10 Please refer to response number 8-2.

49-11 Please refer to response number 8-1.

49-12 Please refer to response number 8-3.

49 CONT.

COMMENTS

-3-

Grant Range - We urge that proposed wilderness boundaries be expanded to include 60,000 acres of Desert Bighorn Sheep habitat, habitat for 200 species of wildflowers and a dozen tree species, and 11,300-foot Troy Peak. Protection of extensive bighorn sheep habitat is an especially important wilderness consideration. 49-13

Quinn Canyon Range - We urge that 95,000 acres of this high country roadless area, recommended by the Forest Service for wilderness in RARE II and protected since 1973, be designated wilderness. 49-14

Thank you for your consideration of our National Forest planning concerns. Please keep us informed of action that you are taking on them.

Ron Guenther
Conservation Chair
For the Sierra Club - Redwood Chapter

RESPONSES

49-13 The boundary around Troy Peak was delineated to reduce minerals-oil/wilderness conflicts. Wilderness designation may not necessarily provide greater protection for the bighorn sheep. The Forest is considering the establishment of a special bighorn sheep management area. The area may be included in the Quinn Management Area and Grant Recommended Wilderness Management Area once the area's value to bighorn sheep has been defined.

49-14 Please refer to response number 8-7.

SEP 23 1985

1620
#50

Forest Supervisor:
Humboldt Nat'l Forest

Sept. 20 '85

Dear Sir :

Please consider my comments re
Humboldt Forest Management Plans.

1. Jarbidge Mts : Increase area to encompass watershed of Camp Creek and areas west of St. Mary River. Total area should be about 50,000 acres. 50-1

2. Elk Mt. : Increase area to 12,500 acres to protect outdoor recreation and sport areas. 50-2

3. Santa Rosa : Increase to 80,000 acres to protect raptor breeding grounds and trout streams. 50-3

4. Ruby Mt. : Increase to 150,000 acres to protect alpine wilderness! 50-4

5. East Humboldt : Acquire private land by direct purchase for a total of ~~[illegible]~~ 30,000 acres. 50-5

6. Pearl Peak : Extend boundary to the southeast for a total of 25,000 acres to protect wildlife and Bristlecone Pine 50-6

50-1 Please refer to response number 49-3.

50-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

50-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

50-4 Please refer to response number 49-6.

50-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

50-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

②

7. South Schell: Wilderness areas to be increased to 120,000 acres to protect this outstanding wilderness and recreation areas. 50-7

8. Mount Moriah: Expand proposal to include southeast portion of the roadless area for a total of 98,000 acres. 50-8

9. Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone): Include Highland Ridge for 120,000 acres to protect and provide wilderness. 50-9

10. Currant Mt. (Duckwater): 50,000 acres should be given wilderness protection to protect Bristlecone pine, bighorn sheep and mule deer. 50-10

11. Grant Range: Expand to include 60,000 acres to protect wildflowers, desert bighorn sheep. 50-11

12. Quinn Canyon Range: Rare II has protected this area and now 95,000 acres should be designated for wilderness 50-12

Thank you for your consideration

Tom Dargan
319 S. Cloverdale Ave
LA 90036

50-7 Please refer to response number 49-9.

50-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

50-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

50-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

50-11 Please refer to response number 49-13.

50-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

COMMENTS

SEP 2 2 1985 [illegible]

Dear B.J. Graves,

I am quite concerned about the beautiful areas of Humboldt National Forest. It is a vast, diverse, and dramatic Forest, as you well know, and I have many specific concerns & requests re: The preservation of its beauty.

I'll begin with The Jarbidge additions. This area would add mt. slopes and The drainages of Fox, Pine, & Cottonwood Creeks to Nevada's only presently designated wildness. Please increase your recommendations to include Camp Creek, The headwaters of Canyon Creek, & The country west of St. Mary's river for a Total of some 54,000 acres. 51-1

Elk Mt. - This is a sportsman's paradise; it must have wilderness protection! Please recommend 12,500 acres for protected wilderness area. 51-2

Santa Rosa MTS - are beautiful, sacred lands - please recommend some 80,000 acres of This remote country. 51-3

Ruby MTS - We can't allow This area to go unprotected with it's classic alpine wilderness; The lakes, meadows, peaks.... please let your proposal include The Northern portion of The range for a Total of 150,000 acres. 51-4

East Humboldt - I ask That private land in Acker Basin be acquired by direct purchase & The 30,000 acres recommended for wilderness protection. 51-5

RESPONSES

51-1 Please refer to response number 49-3.

51-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

51-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

51-4 Please refer to response number 49-6.

51-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

Pearl Peak - Please propose That The boundaries be extended
to The southeast for a total of 23,000 acres - this roadle 51-6
ea has extensive wildlife & needs our protection.

South Schell - The High country is so very, very special -
120,000 acres of This magnificent wilderness needs to 51-7
be designated as protected wilderness area.

Mount Moriah - Please expand your proposal To include
The southeast portion of The roadless area for a total of 51-8
93,000 acres - it is superb wilderness!

Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone) - Why have you neglected to include
the Highland Ridge of This magnificent wilderness? Please
designate 120,000 acres in your proposal - & include The 51-9
old road from The upper campground To Johnson Lake.
Standards & Guidelines for special protection of Bristlecone 51-10
'ine also needs attention & thought. Construction of roads or
econstruction in or near roadless areas must not Take place 51-11
f we are to preserve our gifts of wilderness!

Currant Mt (Duckwater) - This, again, is marvelous high
country. Bristlecone, mule deer, bighorn sheep must be protected &
preserved - if our children are To enjoy places on earth with 51-12
This beauty. I urge That 49,000 acres be given To wilderness
protection.

Grant Range - The boundaries should be expanded in
your proposal To include 60,000 acres - To provide 51-13
greater protection for The sheep population.

Quinn Canyon Range - I urge That 95,000 acres be designated.
I hope you read all of This. It is so important. 51-14
Thank you for your time & thought & hopefully your support. Sincerely

51-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

51-7 Please refer to response number 49-9.

51-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

51-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

51-10 Please refer to response number 48-2.

51-11 Please refer to response number 48-3.

51-12 Please refer to response number 8-3.

51-13 Please refer to response number 14-11.

51-14 Please refer to response number 8-7.

52 COMMENTS

1620
#52

SEP [illegible] 1985

To: Forest Supervisor
Humbolt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Supervisor Graves:

My family and I are extremely disappointed that many key areas of your forest are not reccomended for wilderness under proposed management plans. We believe that the need to increase wilderness protection for your forest should include the present reccomendations plus the following additions:

1) The Quinn Canyon range extension of the Grant Range | 52-1
2) An expanded Grant Range | 52-2
3) At least 120,000 acres of South Schell | 52-3
4) Ruby Mountains, should be expanded to include north part of range. | 52-4
5) Elk Mountain, full protection | 52-5
6) Wheeler Peak, should definitely include Highland Ridge | 52-6

Although even more areas of outstanding wilderness attributes should be protected, the above areas, when added to present reccomendations, at least provide a compromise, a balance between the need for utilization and the need for primitive recreation, wildlife habitat protection, esthetics and most important, a significant respect forpreserving the natural eco-systems of our country in such conditions that future generations may have sufficient wild places for study, enjoyment and spiritual revitilization.

Thank you,

Sue Nobriga,
P.O. Box 476
Miwuk Village, Ca. 95346

RESPONSES

52-1 Please refer to response number 8-7.

52-2 Please refer to response number 49-13.

52-3 Please refer to response number 49-9.

52-4 Please refer to response number 49-6.

52-5 Please refer to response number 8-11.

52-6 Please refer to response number 8-1.

Lorene Torbell
19880 Bittner Road
Occidental, CA 95465

SEP 23 1985
18 Sept 85

Member Sierra Club and others
1620
#53

B J Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt Natl Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, N.V. 89801

Dear Sir:
Re: HUMBOLDT National Forest

The enclosed clipping received from Toiyabe / Humboldt Forest Alert, 530 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94108 is self-explanatory and hope it will influence you to protect these wilderness areas 53-1

Thank you.

Lorene Torbell

Enc.

53-1 The preferred alternative represents a particular management strategy necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives identified within the forest Plan. Wilderness recommendations are one part of the preferred alterantive. Wilderness recommendations are based on the quality, suitability, public and environmental needs and compatibility of the area with the overall management scheme of the preferred alternative.

54 **COMMENTS** **RESPONSES**

10-20
#54

SEP 23 1985

2100 Wallace Ave.
Aptos, CA 95003
September 20, 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt Nat'l Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

As the Sierra Nevada, Cascades, and Rockies become more and more impacted, Americans seeking wilderness experiences will turn increasingly to the Great Basin ranges.

I urge you to help protect the following:

① Currant Mountain - 49,000 acres 54-1
② Grant Range - 60,000 acres 54-2
③ Quinn Canyon Range - 95,000 acres 54-3

All of these areas need and deserve

54-1 Please refer to response number 8-3.

54-2 Please refer to response number 49-13.

54-3 Please refer to response number 8-7.

protection as wilderness, not only for their scenic values, but for the wildlife found there. I am particularly interested in preserving bighorn sheep populations west of the Rockies.

Sincerely,

Phillip Olivier

1620
#55

SEP 23 1985

19 Sep 85
2621 Bello Dr
No. Las Vegas, NV 89030

Dear B.J. Graves,

Wilderness is not an exclusive, single use of the land, nor against hunting and fishing, nor against grazing of livestock, nor a lock-up of minerals and energy resources, nor a lock-up of off-road vehicle roads, nor a condemnation of private land or an increase in public lands, nor an increase in Federal control, nor bad for local economies, nor only for the wealthy elite, nor only for the young and energetic.

Wilderness includes all of the above and protects water quality, air quality, wildlife habitat, wilderness areas for future generations, recreation opportunities, rare and endangered species, scenic beauty, unique plant and animal ecosystems and genetic strains, natural areas for educational and scientific study, and provides spiritual inspiration.

I, therefore, believe that a comprehensive wilderness bill must be passed and urge you to support the 21 areas, 1,506,735 acres recommended by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness. 55-1

A Concerned Citizen,
Bob Fatek

55-1 Please refer to response number 53-1.

1020
#56

SEP 23 1985

September 18, 1985

B. J. Graves
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Friend:

Please be informed that we support the Friends of Nevada Wilderness proposal for wilderness which asks for 21 areas, 1.5 million acres, representing only 2% of Nevada land. 56-1

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Betty Follis
Mrs. Betty Follis

Miss Cindy Follis
Miss Cindy Follis

4476 Avondale Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89121

56-1 **Please refer to response number 53-1.**

READEX FICHE

57 COMMENTS

1620
#57

SEP 23 1985

Susan Richardson Lundy
3411 Waco Street, #1
San Diego, CA 92117

September 19, 1985

B. J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

To help conserve the recreational and wildlife values of the Humboldt National Forest, I support the "Standards and Guidelines" for special protection of the Bristlecone Pine, and I strongly oppose any construction or reconstruction of roads in or near roadless areas. In addition, I support each of the following areas for wilderness designation. 57-1 57-2

1. An increase in the Jarbidge Additions recommendation to include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and the country west of St. Mary's River for a total of 54,000 acres. 57-3

2. The 12,500 acres of the forested area of Elk Mountain, a sportman's paradise. 57-4

3. Eighty thousand acres in the remote Santa Rosa Mountains, which contain the headwaters of both the Quinn and Little Humboldt Rivers, a large raptor population and excellent trout fishing. 57-5

4. An inclusion of the northern portion of the Ruby Mountain Range, a classic alpine wilderness offering excellent hiking, fishing and hunting, for a total of 150,000 acres. 57-6

5. Direct purchase of private land in Acker Basin to add 30,000 acres of the East Humboldt area to wilderness protection. 57-7

6. An extension of the Pearl Peak boundary to the southeast to include an area which contains stands of Bristlecone Pine and extensive wildlife, for a total of 23,000 acres. 57-8

RESPONSES

57-1 We appreciate your concern for the protection of bristlecone pine. The standards and guidelines presented within the Forest Plan will provide adequate protection for the bristlecone pine.

57-2 Construction or reconstruction of roads within roadless areas recommended for wilderness designation is prohibited for all activities except for mining. Since there are no buffer zones around wilderness areas or areas recommended for wilderness, road construction/reconstruction can occur up to the boundary line.

57-3 Please refer to response 8-5.

57-4 Elk Mountain was not recommended for wilderness due to the preponderance of roads within the area.

57-5 Please refer to response number 8-12.

57-6 A portion of the North Ruby Roadless area (Soldier Lake) has been recommended for wilderness within the FEIS/Plan.

57-7 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

57-8 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

Page 2

7. Of the magnificent wilderness and recreational resource of South Schell, 120,000 acres should be supported for protection. 57-9

8. Expansion of recommendation to include 98,000 acres of the superb, wild Mount Moriah area. 57-10

9. Inclusion of the Highland Ridge of the Wheeler Peak area, the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake, for a total of 120,000 acres. This area contains many high peaks and extensive Bristlecone Pine forests. 57-11

10. Protection for 49,000 acres of Currant Mountain (Duckwater), a high, remote limestone wilderness containing Bristlecone, bighorn sheep, and mule deer. 57-12

11. Expansion of Grant Range boundaries to include 60,000 acres and greater protection for the sheep population. 57-13

12. Designation of wilderness protection for 95,000 acres of the high country of Grant Range. 57-14

Thank you for your consideration of these areas for wilderness protection in the Humboldt National Forest management plan.

Sincerely,

Susan Richardson Lundy

Susan Richardson Lundy

57-9 Please refer to response number 8-8.

57-10 Please refer to response number 8-2.

57-11 Please refer to response number 8-1.

57-12 Please refer to response number 8-3.

57-13 Please refer to response number 14-11.

57-14 Please refer to response number 8-7.

COMMENTS

1620
#58

SEP 23 1985

Mt. Charleston, Sept. 20. 1985

B.J. Graves,
Humboldt Natl. Forest
976 Mt. City Highwy
Elko Nv. 89801

Dear Mr. Graves,

I'm writing this letter to ask you to give your full support for the wilderness protection proposals urgently needed for all twelve areas listed on the separate enclosure. 58-1

Especially for Nevada it is important to protect these areas from abuses in any form and to strictly adhere to the Standards and Guidelines for timber, range, riparian areas and wildlife. 58-2

This and future generations will be grateful to you for your foresight in preserving Nevada's wilderness. The power and influence you have in these matters, also demands responsability! Responsability towards NATURE and it's PRESERVATION, not just to short lived interest and instant gratification.

Thank you for your efforts and support,

Sincerely
Marcel Barel

Marcel Barel
68, Morits Way
Mt. Charleston
Nv. 89124

RESPONSES

58-1 Please refer to response number 53-1.

58-2 The Forest-wide standards and guidelines were developed to resolve public issues and management concerns and to direct management practices to accomplish Forest goals and objectives. Standards and guidelines are also used to carry out mutiple-use prescriptions for each management area. The standards and guidelines will be adhered to.

16-20
#59

SEP. 23 1985

Mrs. E. Parry Thomas
800 Rancho Circle
Las Vegas, Nevada 89107
Sept. 20, 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt Nat'l Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nev. 89801

Dear Mr. Graves,

I'm a fifty-nine year old grandmother
and hiker who wants her grandchildren to have
the same opportunities for wilderness experiences
she's enjoyed. I get into eastern and northern
Nevada several times each year and the vast
emptiness of the landscape always rejuvenates
my spirits. I urge you to emphasize wilderness 59-1
recreation and wildlife values in your manage-
ment plan, and oppose road construction 59-2
in or near roadless areas. The following
areas need your protection now:

Jarbidge Additions - to include Camp Creek, 59-3
headwaters of Canyon Creek, and country west of
St. Mary's River - 54,000 acres.

Elk Mountain - 12,500 acres 59-4

Santa Rosa - 80,000 acres 59-5

Ruby Mountains - enlarge to include 59-6
northern portion and total 150,000 acres —
Too much ugly development has already
occurred here

East Humboldt - acquire private land in 59-7

59-1 Based upon public comments we have reevaluated the management emphasis level for certain resources (i.e., wildlife/fish, developed recreation, dispersed recreation and soil/water). Within certain management areas the emphasis level for the above mentioned resources has been increased.

59-2 Construction or reconstruction of roads within roadless areas recommended for wilderness designation is prohibited for all activities except for mining. Since there are no buffer zones around wilderness areas or areas recommended for wilderness, road construction/reconstruction can occur up to the boundary line.

59-3 Please refer to response number 8-5.

59-4 Please refer to response number 57-4.

59-5 Please refer to response number 8-12.

59-6 Please refer to response number 57-6.

59-7 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

59 CONT.

COMMENTS

[illegible] Basin and recommend 30,000 acres for wilderness. 59-7

Pearl Peak - extend boundary to southwest to total 23,000 acres 59-8

South Schell - 120,000 acres 59-9

Mt. Moriah - expand proposed to include southeast portion of roadless area - 98,000 acres. 59-10

Wheeler Peak - include Highland Ridge and old road from upper campground to Johnson Lake - 120,000 acres 59-11

Currant Mountain - protect bristlecone pine, bighorn sheep, and deer - 49,000 acres 59-12

Grant Range - expand to 60,000 acres to protect bighorn sheep. 59-13

Quinn Canyon Range - 95,000 acres. 59-14

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely

RESPONSES

59-8 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

59-9 Please refer to response number 8-8.

59-10 Please refer to response number 8-2.

59-11 Please refer to response number 8-1.

59-12 Please refer to response number 8-3.

59-13 Please refer to response number 14-11.

59-14 Please refer to response number 8-7.

SEP 23 1985

K620
#60

9-19-85

Dear Mr. Graves,
I am writing in
strong support of
wilderness protection
for the following
areas in the
Humboldt Nat'l. Forest
12,500 acres / Elk Mountain 60-1
80,000 " / Santa Rosa Range 60-2
150,000 " / Ruby Mountains 60-3
30,000 " / East Humboldt (+ Lake Basin) 60-4
23,000 " / Pearl Peak 60-5
120,000 " / South Schell 60-6
98,000 " / Mount Moriah 60-7
130,000 " / Wheeler Peak 60-8
49,000 " / Currant Mountain 60-9
60,000 " / Grant Range 60-10
95,000 " / Quinn Canyon Range 60-11
54,000 " / Jarbidge Additions 60-12

60-1 Please refer to response number 8-11.

60-2 Please refer to response number 8-12.

60-3 Please refer to response number 8-4.

60-4 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

60-5 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

60-6 The South Schell Roadless Area was not recommended for wilderness due to the area's high mineral potential, as well as other resource management conflicts.

60-7 Please refer to response number 8-2.

60-8 Please refer to response number 8-1.

60-9 Please refer to response number 8-3.

60-10 Please refer to response number 49-13.

60-11 Please refer to response number 8-7.

60-12 Please refer to response number 8-5.

60 CONT. COMMENTS

-2-

Road construction in or near areas which are non roadless must not be allowed. 60-13

The recreational + wildlife value of this forest cannot be overemphasized. 60-14

I also support "Standards + Guidelines" for special protection of the Bristlecone Pine. 60-15

I feel it is imperative to preserve all of these wonderful areas.

Sincerely,
Melissa Rux
3060 Lynn Ln., C.C., NV 89701

RESPONSES

60-13 **Please refer to response number 14-14.**

60-14 **Please refer to response number 59-1.**

60-15 **Please refer to response number 14-15.**

[illegible]
3210 E. Lamona
Fresno, Ca 93703

SEP 23 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves

There are several areas within your jurisdiction which deserve wilderness designation because of the need for recreational areas and their wildlife values. These areas should include:

Jarbidge Additions to include Camp Creek the headwaters of Canyon Creek & west of St. Marys River 61-1

Elk Mountain 12,5000 acres 61-2

The Santa Rosa area 80,000 acres 61-3

The northern portion of the Ruby Mountains 150,000 acres 61-4

The East Humboldt area of 30,000 acres including purchase of private land in Acker Basin 61-5

23,000 acres including Pearl Peak to protect the Bristlecone Pine 61-6

61-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

61-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

61-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

61-4 Please refer to response number 8-7.

61-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

61-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

COMMENTS

120,000 acres, South Schell 61-7

Include the southeast portion of Mount Moriah 98,000 acres 61-8

Extensive Bristlecone Pine Forests, Wheeler Peak including the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake 120,000 acres 61-9

49,000 acres in the Current Mountain area as protection for the bighorn sheep especially 61-10

also 60,000 acres in the Grant Range. 61-11

95,000 acres in Quinn Canyon Range as recommended in RARE II 61-12

My support for "Standards and Guidelines" for special protection of the Bristlecone Pine is very strong. 61-13

Please designate the above areas for wilderness.

Sincerely
Barbara Henderson

RESPONSES

61-7 The South Schell Roadless Area was not recommended for wilderness due to the area's high mineral potential, as well as other resource management conflicts.

61-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

61-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

61-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

61-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

61-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

61-13 Please refer to response number 57-1.

1620
#62

SEP 23 1985

509 S. Sowell #B
Visalia, CA 93277
Sept. 19, 1985

B.J. Graves
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves,

I feel there is great need for improvement in the management plan for Humboldt National Forest. I strongly support wilderness protection for the specific acerages described below.

QUINN CANYON RANGE -- I urge 95,000 acres be designated. 62-1

GRANT RANGE -- The boundaries should be expanded to include 60,000 acres and greater protection for those sheep. 62-2

CURRANT MOUNTAIN -- 49,000 acres should be given wilderness protection. 62-3

WHEELER PEAK -- Highland Ridge should be included and 120,000 acres designated in the proposal, including the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake. 62-4

MOUNT MORIAH -- Expand to 98,000 acres and include the southeast portion of the roadless area. 62-5

SOUTH SCHELL --c 120,00 acres should be designated as wilderness. 62-6

PEARL PEAK -- Extend the boundary to the southeast for a total of 23,000 acres. 62-7

EAST HUMBOLDT -- Private land in Acker Basin should be acquired by direct purchase and 30,000 acres designated as wilderness. 62-8

RUBY MOUNTAINS -- Enlarge the proposal to include the northern portion of the range for a total of 150,000 acres. 62-9
SANTA ROSA -- Please recommend some 80,000 acres. 62-10
ELK MOUNTAIN -- Please recommend 12,500 acres. 62-11
JARBRIDGE ADDITIONS -- Increase recommendation to include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and the country west of St. Mary's River for 54,000 acres. 62-12

Thank you for attending to these concerns.

Sincerely,

Steve Surowiec

Steve Surowiec

62-1 Please refer to response number 8-7.

62-2 Please refer to response number 14-11.

62-3 Please refer to response number 8-3.

62-4 Please refer to response number 8-1.

62-5 Please refer to response number 8-2.

62-6 Please refer to response number 61-7

62-7 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

62-8 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

62-9 Please refer to response number 8-4.

62-10 Please refer to response number 8-12.

62-11 Please refer to response number 8-11.

62-12 Please refer to response number 8-5.

63 COMMENTS

16.2c.
#63

SEP 23 1985

4097 Solar Way,
Lompoc, California,93436
September 21, 1985

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada, 89801

Dear Mr. Graves;

When the Forest Service completed the management plan for the Humboldt National Forest vast areas of roadless acres failed to be considered for wilderness. Since the Forest Service is the government agency supposed to protect and conserve our forests, I find it hard to find justification for this. To wait until the next management plan is reviewed will be too late. The wilderness characteristics of these areas will undoubtedly be destroyed.

The areas which should be considered are: Pearl Peak area which should be extended southeast to include 23,000 acres and Wheeler Peak to designate120,000 acres and Current Mountain 49000 acres should be given wilderness protection. All of these areas contain stands of Bristlecone Pine, the oldest living tree on earth, as well as big horn sheep, mule deer and other wildlife. 63-1

The Forest Service whould recommend that 12,500 acres in the Elk Mountain are, 80,000 acres in the remote country in the northern portion of the Santa Rosa Mountains, and 150,000 acres in the Ruby Mountains should receive wilderness protection. These areas are all excellent for fishing and hunting, besides being a hikers dream with lakes, meadows and peaks. 63-2

The East Humboldt area in the Ruby Mountains should be acquired by direct purchase and 30,000 acres recommended for wilderness protection. 63-3

The Jarbidge additions would add to Nevada's only presently designated wilderness. 54,000 acres should be added there. 63-4

South Schell, 120,000 acres of magnificent wildernessand recreational resources, and Grant Range, another area with over 200 species of wildflowers, a dozen tree species and desert bighorn, should be expanded to include 60,000 acres. Quinn Range, and extension of Grant Range was recommended for wilderness in 1970 by the Forest Service in Rare II. 63-5

If these areas are protected now, then down through the ages our descendants will be able to enjoy or at least know there are areas that are still beautiful as they always were.

Sincerely yours,

Helen L. Hartman

RESPONSES

63-1 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation. The Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not support a population of big horn sheep.

63-2 Please refer to response numbers 8-11, 8-12 and 8-4.

63-3 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

63-4 Please refer to response number 8-5.

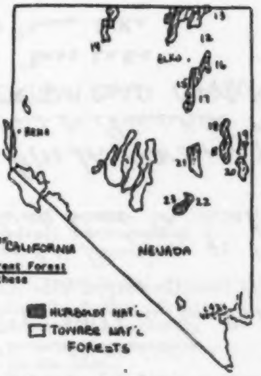
63-5 Please refer to response numbers 61-7, 14-11 and 8-7.

SEP 23 1985

URGENT:

1020
1F64

TO PROTECT CALIFORNIA/NEVADA WILDERNESS



B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Hwy
Elko, Nevada 89801

THIS MAY BE OUR ONLY CHANCE TO SAVE THESE LANDS!
The Toiyabe is the largest National Forest in the lower 49 states. With prospects for passage of an acceptable Nevada wilderness bill highly uncertain, the current Forest planning process may be the only means of protecting these roadless areas.

MOST OF THE LANDS IN THESE FORESTS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS WILL LIKELY BE DESTROYED!
The final plans will also mandate management guidelines for timber, range, rip areas and wildlife. We ask for your help and support in giving it your full attention NOW to save these wonderful areas God has given us to protect.

Recommendations for Toiyabe Forest Management Plans:

12. Jarbidge Additions
Urge the Forest Service to increase its recommendation to include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon creek, and the country west of St. Mary's River for a total of some 54,000 acres. | 64-1

13. Elk Mountain
The Forest service should be urged to recommend 12,500 acres. | 64-2

14. Santa Rosa
The Forest service should be encouraged to recommend some 80,000 acres of this remote country. | 64-3

15. Ruby Mountains
The Forest Service's proposal should be enlarged to include the northern portion of the range for a total of 150,000 acres. | 64-4

16. East Humboldt
Private land in Acker Basin should be acquired by direct purchase and 30,000 acres recommended for wilderness protection. | 64-5

17. Pearl Peak
The boundry should be extended to the southeast for a total of 23,000 acres. | 64-6

18. South Schell
120,000 acres of this magnificent wilderness and recreational resource should be supported for wilderness designation. | 64-7

19. Mount Moriah
The Forest Service should expand its proposal to include the southeast portion of the roadless area for a total of 98,000 acres. | 64-8

20. Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone)
The Forest Service has failed to include the Highland Ridge of this magnificent wilderness and should be urged to designate 120,000 acres in its proposal, including the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake. | 64-9

21. Currant Mountain (Duckwater)
Urge that 49,000 acres be given wilderness protection. | 64-10

22. Grant Range
Boundries should be expanded to include 60,000 acres and thereby provide greater protection for the sheep population. | 64-11

23. Quinn Canyon Range
Urge that 95,000 acres be designated. | 64-12

Respectfully,

64-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

64-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

64-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

64-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

64-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

64-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

64-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

64-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

64-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

64-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

64-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

64-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

PROTECT HUMBOLDT NAT'L FOREST

	NAME:	ADDRESS:
①	Kathleen Shinaver	38121 WORTHAM RD. / Oakhurst, Ca.
②	[illegible]	[illegible] Oakhurst [illegible]
③	Barbara Ulman	50845 Rd. 632, Oakhurst, Ca. 93644
④	Cori Smith	5821 W Rainbow Fall, Mariposa Ca.
⑤	Roger Mitchell	BOX 1203 OAKHURST CA 93644
⑥	Shala [illegible]	5291 Davis Rd. Midpines, Ca. 95345
⑦	Ann [illegible]	43005 RANGER CIRCLE E COARSEGOLD CA 93614
⑧	John de GRUCHY	43005 RANGER CIRCLE Ct COARSEGOLD CA 93614
⑨	[illegible]	P.O. BOX 1346 OAKHURST [illegible]
⑩	Jan Becerra	5291 DAVIS Rd Midpines, ca, 95345
⑪	Stan Petersen	Box 2235 Wawona, Ca 95389
⑫	[illegible]	5185 [illegible] Mariposa 95338
⑬	[illegible] Holliday	45306 So. Oak View Dr. Oakhurst
⑭	[illegible]	43000 Country Club Dr. Oakhurst, 93644
⑮	[illegible]	[illegible] Country Club Dr. Oakhurst, Ca 93644
⑯	Karol Jewitt	38 121 WORTHAM ROAD OAKHURST, CA
⑰	Hal McInnis	40437 Rd 331 Bass Lake
⑱	Dee Dee McInnis	40437 Rd 331 Bass Lake
⑲		
⑳		
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Respectfully Yours.

SEP 23 1985

1620
#65

40547 E. Oakland Ave.,
Hemet, CA 92344
Sept. 19, 1985

Mr. B. J. Graves,
Forest Supervisor,
Humboldt National Forest,
976 Mountain City Highway,
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves;

I do research and write on the nature of our current civilization, largely in terms of the overall environmental picture. It's a depressing picture.

It doesn't have to be. On the contrary, with implementation of what should be our natural concerns for the future of this planet we call our home, the future could make the beginning of a period of enlightened, concerned conservation measures, reversing much of what has taken place in the past.

In this case, I refer to your stewardship of the Humboldt National Forest. As a member of the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society, I strongly urge you to go along with the recommendations for the Humboldt National Forest outlined in the enclosed brochure. 65-1

That will go a long way towards preserving this natural, God-given heritage.

Thank God we do have a growing recognition of the vital importance of this heritage - and that steps are being taken to preserve it...this priceless legacy.

Thanks for your concerns and cooperation.

Sincerely,
E. Burtis
C. Edward Burtis

65-1 Please refer to response number 53-1.

66 **COMMENTS** **RESPONSES**

1620
#66

SEP 23 1985

9/18/85

Dear Supervisor Graves,

The Sierra Club has sent us a flyer detailing the fantastic places in the Humboldt Forest which are in danger of being opened to commercial development, roads, etc. and of course as a life-cong hiker and camper (I'm 56) I am very alarmed. 66-1

I don't know all 20 areas personally, but I do know a few and in general I always urge my govt. officials and my legislators to save as much land as wilderness as possible. Once "used" it's gone forever. I know--I come from Connecticut and New England has almost no wild land left. 66-1

Beauty and wilflife, clean air and water--these are priceless. The govt. owns and protects such lands for ALL of the ordinary citizens like me.

At least, I HOPE you see your role this way. If you don't, there's no way my grandkids can ever enjoy the wilderness as I have been privileged to do. Sure we need minerals and wood--so why not exploit the land? But mankind also needs beauty. And silence. And peace. Or we'll all go crazy.

Thank you very much for your support and help--

Anne G. Phillips

Anne G. Phillips
Santa Monica, CA 90405
(just a part of L.A.,
you know)

66-1 The preferred alternative represents a particular management strategy necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives identified within the Forest Plan. Wilderness recommendations are one part of the preferred alternative. Wilderness recommendations based on the quality, suitability, public and environmental needs and compatibility of the area with the overall management scheme of the preferred alternative.

1620
#67

SEP 23 1985

Sept. 20, 1985

B. J. Graves
Humbolt Natl Forest

Dear Mr Graves,

I am writing in support of protection for the roadless areas of Humbolt National Forest & a forest management plan which will assure that these areas remain roadless wilderness & that the Bristlecone pine will be given special protection.

It is very important to the future of Nevada that we maintain our beautiful wilderness areas. Specifically, the areas for protection should include:

Jarbidge (including Camp & Canyon Creeks & areas west of St Mary's River | 67-1
Elk Mountain - 17,500 acres | 67-2
| 67-3
Santa Rosa - 86,000 acres | 67-4
Ruby 150000 acres
E. Humbolt (30,000 private land purchase) | 67-5
Pearl Peak - 23,000 | 67-6
South Schell - 120,000 acres | 67-7
Mt Moriah 18,000 | 67-8

67-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

67-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

67-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

67-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

67-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

67-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

67-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

67-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

67 CONT. COMMENTS

2-

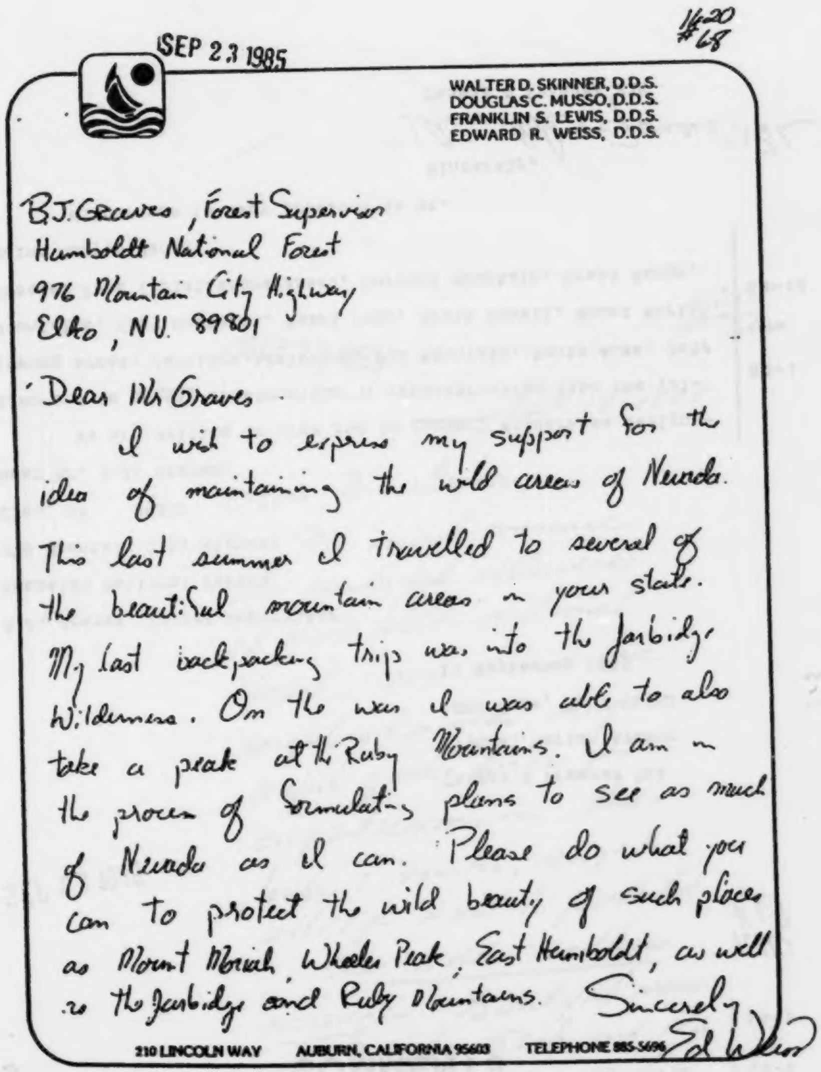
Wheeler Peak - 100,000 acres | 67-9
Currant Mt - 49,000 " | 67-10
Grant Range 60,000 " | 67-11
Quinn Canyon Range - 45,000 " | 67-12

Very truly,

Louise Bayard-de-Volo
Box 285
Verdi, NV 89439

RESPONSES

67-9	**Please refer to response number 8-1.**
67-10	Please refer to response number 8-3.
67-11	Please refer to response number 14-11.
67-12	**Please refer to response number 8-7.**



SEP 23 1985

1620
#68

WALTER D. SKINNER, D.D.S.
DOUGLAS C. MUSSO, D.D.S.
FRANKLIN S. LEWIS, D.D.S.
EDWARD R. WEISS, D.D.S.

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV. 89801

Dear Mr Graves

I wish to express my support for the idea of maintaining the wild areas of Nevada. This last summer I travelled to several of the beautiful mountain areas in your state. My last backpacking trips was into the Jarbidge Wilderness. On the way I was able to also take a peak at the Ruby Mountains. I am in the process of formulating plans to see as much of Nevada as I can. Please do what you can to protect the wild beauty of such places as Mount Moriah, Wheeler Peak, East Humboldt, as well as the Jarbidge and Ruby Mountains.

Sincerely
Ed Weiss

210 LINCOLN WAY AUBURN, CALIFORNIA 95603 TELEPHONE 885-5696

68-1
thru
68-5

68-1 Please refer to response number 8-2.

68-2 Please refer to response number 8-1.

68-3 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

68-4 Please refer to response number 8-5.

68-5 Please refer to response number 8-4.

69 COMMENTS

1620
#69

SEP 23 1985

Thomas & Frances Rak
1790 N. Marian Avenue
1000 Oaks, Ca. 91360
19 September 1985

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. B.J. Graves,

We are writing to urge you to support wilderness designation and to oppose construction or reconstruction into the following areas: Jarbidge Additions, Elk Mountain, Santa Rosa, Ruby Mountains, East Humboldt, Pearl Peak, South Schell, Mount Moriah, Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone Area), Currant Mountain, Grant Range, Quinn Canyon Range.

69-1 thru 69-13

Wilderness is very precious to us.

Sincerely,

Thomas Rak + Frances Rak

Thomas & Frances Rak

RESPONSES

69-1 Construction or reconstruction of roads within roadless areas recommended for wilderness designation is prohibited for all activities except for mining. Since there are no buffer zones around wilderness areas or areas recommended for wilderness, road construction or reconstruction can occur up to the boundary line.

69-2 Please refer to response number 8-5.

69-3 Please refer to response number 8-11.

69-4 Please refer to response number 8-12.

69-5 Please refer to response number 8-4.

69-6 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

69-7 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

69-8 Please refer to response number 61-7.

69-9 Please refer to response number 8-2.

69-10 Please refer to response number 8-1.

69-11 Please refer to response number 8-3.

69-12 Please refer to response number 14-11.

69-13 Please refer to response number 8-7.

SEP 23 1985

1620
#70

Sept. 18, 1985

Dear Mr. Grosse,

We must preserve the wonderful wilderness of Humboldt National Forest. We must have careful standards, very careful guide lines for any intrusions on these lands; timber, range wildlife must be protected.

We need roadless acreage. Beautiful areas like Wheeler Peak and its | 70-1
from the cows, the [illegible] | 70-2

70-1 Please refer to response number 8-1.

70-2 Please refer to response number 8-4.

70 CONT.

COMMENTS

the Santa Rosas should be attended now before it is too late.

If only Nevada would take a lesson from California where we have destroyed too much.

Please honor your responsibilities to protect these wild and scenic lands.

70-3

Sincerely,
Gertrude Sartin
Box 827
Lone Pine Calif.
93545

RESPONSES

70-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

SEP 23 1985

1620
#71

Keith S. Harris
56 'E' Street
Edwards, CA
93523

18 Sep '85

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves,

I've learned that forest management plans are currently being reviewed and I'd like to ask you to support the establishment of wilderness areas in the lands under your protection. My family and I think wilderness is a truly irreplaceable resource that, once lost, cannot be easily or readily regained. And although I don't get to explore these areas as much as I'd like, at least they'll be there for my children.

Areas in the Humboldt National Forest that I'd like to ask you to consider for wilderness designation include:

1. Camp Creek, the head of Canyon Creek, and the area west of St. Mary's River (about 54,000 acres). 71-1
2. Some 12,500 acres around Elk Mountain. 71-2
3. The 80,000 acres around the Santa Rosa mountains, including Quinn and Little Humboldt Rivers (excellent trout fishing). 71-3
4. At least 150,000 acres in the northern Ruby Mountains. 71-4
5. Another 30,000 acres in the Acker Basin area. 71-5
6. The area south of Harrison pass (Pearl Peak), about 23,000 acres. 71-6
7. The Mount Moriah area (more good trout fishing), 90,00 acres. 71-7
8. The 120,000 acres near the Wheeler Peak area. 71-8
9. The 49,000 acres around Currant Mountain, favored by sheep and mule deer. 71-9
10. Grant Range, another 60,000 acres. 71-10
11. The Quinn Canyon Range near Grant Range, another 95,000 acres. 71-11

I totally oppose the construction of new roads or the reconstruction of existing roads in these areas. God knows, we already have enough roads in this country for people whose legs and spirits have atrophied to the point where walking isn't even considered a mode of transportation. Put the money saved on roads into maintaining existing trails, animal populations, or regulating forest visitors (or even increasing ranger salaries)! 71-12

The "Standards and Guidelines" for protection of the Bristlecone Pine, however, is worthy and deserves your support. 71-13

Once again, let me beg you to support our wilderness areas, not only for our enjoyment, but for the sake of our children and the future. Wilderness is more than undeveloped land....it's a symbol that shows our commitment to preserving this planet for all the species which grace her.

Thank you for reading and considering this letter.

Sincerely,

Keith S. Harris

Keith S. Harris

71-1	Please refer to response number 8-5.
71-2	Please refer to response number 8-11.
71-3	Please refer to response number 8-12.
71-4	Please refer to response number 8-4.
71-5	In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.
71-6	It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.
71-7	Please refer to response number 8-2.
71-8	Please refer to response number 8-1.
71-9	Please refer to response number 8-3.
71-10	Please refer to response number 14-11.
71-11	Please refer to response number 8-7.
71-12	Construction or reconstruction of roads within roadless areas recommended for wilderness designation is prohibited for all activities except for mining. Since there are no buffer zones around wilderness areas or areas recommended for wildenress, road construction or reconstruction can occur up to the boundary line.
71-13	We appreciate your concern for the protection of bristlecone pine. The standards and guidelines presented within the Forest Plan provide adequate protection for the bristlecone pine.

COMMENTS

SEP 23 1985

1620
72

September 18, 1985

B.J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

This is an urgent appeal to you to include in your management plans for the Humboldt National Forest the most comprehensive and strongest protection of wilderness and roadless areas possible. We, as individuals, as a nation, and as a human race, have a responsibility to protect the earth and all of its life forms; to live in such a way that we may pass on the earth, in-tact and healthy, to future generations. We ask your support, and urge you to please consider the following recommendations in your Forest Management Plan:

1) JARBRIDGE ADDITIONS. Please expand your recommended protected acreage in this area to include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and the country west of St. Mary's River to make this a total of some 54,000 protected acres. 72-1

2) ELK MOUNTAIN. Please recommend that 12,500 acres in this forested area be classified as protected wilderness. 72-2

3) SANTA ROSA. Please recommend wilderness protection for at least 80,000 acres in this area, in order to protect habitat for the large raptor population. 72-3

4) RUBY MOUNTAINS. Please expand the current acreage in this area recommended for wilderness protection to include the northern portion of the range, making this a total of 150,000 protected acres. 72-4

5) EAST HUMBOLDT. Please recommend that private land in Acker Basin be acquired by direct purchase, and that 30,000 acres be designated as protected wilderness. 72-5

6) PEARL PEAK. Please recommend that the boundary of this area be extended to the southeast, making this a total of 23,000 protected acres. The stands of Bristlecone Pine in this area should definitely be protected; they are a magnificent part of our heritage. 72-6

7) SOUTH SCHELL. Please recommend that 120,000 acres of this magnificent wilderness resource be granted wilderness protection status. 72-7

8) MOUNT MORIAH. Please expand your proposal to include the southeast portion of the roadless area, for a total of 98,000 acres. 72-8

9) WHEELER PEAK (BRISTLECONE). Another Bristlecone Pine Forest, this area also must be granted wilderness protection status. Please designate 120,000 acres in your proposal, and ask that the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake be included. 72-9

RESPONSES

72-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

72-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

72-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

72-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

72-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

72-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

72-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

72-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

72-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

COMMENTS

2.

10) **CURRANT MOUNTAIN (DUCKWATER).** Please recommend that 49,000 acres in this area be granted wilderness protection. This is a habitat area for bighorn sheep and mule deer, and must be protected for them. Too much of their habitat has already be infringed upon. Also, the Bristlecone Pines in this area must be protected. 72-10

11) **GRANT RANGE.** Please recommend that the boundaries of this area be expanded to include 60,000 acres, in order to provide better protection for the desert bighorn sheep residing there. Also, the over 200 species of wildflowers, and dozen tree species in this area need to be protected. 72-11

12) **QUINN CANYON RANGE.** Please designate 95,000 acres of this area for wilderness protection status. Urge that the protection of this area since its designation as wilderness in RARE II in 1973 be continued. 72-12

It is impossible for us to stress how strongly we feel about these recommendations. To lose yet more precious wilderness area is unfathomable. We have allowed far too much desecreation of the earth, already. We must protect the last of the wilderness still available, for the preservation of natural resources, wildlife, and our own spirits.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We would appreciate being kept abreast of developments in the planning for the protection of the Humboldt National Forest. Yours is an overwhelmingly responsible task. We offer you our best wishes.

Sincerely,

Gary & Betty Ball

Gary and Betty Ball

P.O. Box 176
Coarsegold, CA 93614

RESPONSES

72-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

72-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

72-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

73 **COMMENTS**

SEP 23 1985

1620
#73

Elko County Conservation Association
831 6th Street
Elko, Nevada 89801
September 20, 1985

Mr. Robert Graves
Humboldt National Forest Supervisor
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

Recently a number of Elko County residents who are vitally interested in natural resource conservation assembled to form a group they wish to call the Elko County Conservation Association. We wish to work closely with the land management agencies, conservation groups, and industry in conserving, protecting and enhancing Nevada's natural resources. With this in mind please accept our comments on the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

COMMENTS ON WILDERNESS

We endorse the following wilderness areas:

1.	East Humboldt	3-226/C	73-1
2.	Ruby Mountains North	3-227	73-2
3.	Pearl Peak	3-228	73-3
4.	Santa Rosa	3-229	73-4
5.	Mount Moriah	4-352	73-5
6.	North Schell	4-354	73-6
7.	South Schell	4-355	73-7
8.	Wheeler Peak	4-359	73-8
9.	Quinn	4-360	73-9
10.	Jarbidge	4-372	73-10
11.	Elk Mountain	4-374	73-11

RESPONSES

73-1 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

73-2 Please refer to response number 8-4.

73-3 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

73-4 Please refer to response number 8-12.

73-5 Please refer to response number 8-2.

73-6 Please refer to response number 61-7.

73-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

73-8 Please refer to response number 8-1.

73-9 Please refer to response number 8-7.

73-10 Please refer to response number 8-5.

73-11 Please refer to response number 8-11.

Letter to Robert Graves
September 20, 1985
Page 2

COMMENTS ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

73-12 The preferred alternative Forest Plan (K) is essentially one of status quo except for emphasis on increased livestock production. It does not place enough emphasis on wildlife and the upgrading of riparion habitat which is so vital to the preservation of ecosystems in the Great Basin.

73-13 The public has identified that second to wilderness, wildlife was the major concern. We would also like to point out that since the early 1960's there has been a marked decline in recreational hunting on National Forest lands because of a decline in deer numbers. While deer populations have generally deminished, the increasing demand for this species has forced the Nevada Department of Wildlife into a quota system. Much of the decrease in deer range carrying capacity can be attributed to vegetal changes in range as a direct result of planned manipulation that has benefited domestic livestock. We therefore feel that a much more aggressive program is necessary to increase deer numbers by increasing deer range carrying capacity in areas where this type of program is compatible with soil and watershed conservation. Where it is not compatible, reserve 50 percent of the increased forage production for cattle and other forms of wildlife. This would allow forage for yet to be introduced species, such as elk, bighorn sheep, or possibly antelope. In this way perhaps some of the lost recreational opportunity can be recaptured. 73-14

73-15 Alternative A - Would appear to be most environmentally and economically sound; however it is included with 42 wilderness areas which would doom its acceptance by the public. Alternative K with Alternative A's provisions for wildlife would be our recommendation. As written Alternative K with its emphasis on increased livestock production and maintenance of the status quo for wildlife is unacceptable.

73-16 The weak position the Forest Plan takes on riparian areas is of great concern to us. The Department of Agriculture's policy on fish and wildlife states that management practices on National Forest systems lands will give special attention to reparian habitats. We do not see this commitment. We feel a current inventory of all riparian areas on National Forest lands is essential to any forest management plan. Since this has not been proposed we would like to suggest that the Humboldt National Forest adopt as its guideline for riparian management those

73-12 Based upon public comments we have reevaluated the management emphasis level for certain resources (i.e. wildlife/fish, developed recreation, dispersed recreation and soil/water). Within certain management areas the emphasis level for the above mentioned resources has been increased.

Riparian areas will improve under the management provided within the Preferred Alternative. Forest-wide standards and guidelines have been strengthened to better address management of riparian areas.

73-13 The primary limiting factor for most of the deer herds on the Humboldt National Forest is winter habitat. There is ample summer habitat allowing for increases in deer numbers. Rehabilitation of the limited amount of deer winter habitat. There appears to be ample summer habitat allowing for increases in deer numbers. Rehabilitation of the limited amount of deer winter habitat located on the Forat is an intregal part of the FEIS/Plan. However, we need to be cognizant of the fact that a large percentage of deer winter range in northern Nevada is administered by other public agencies or is located on private land. The Forest Service has limited influence over these other lands.

73-14 Forage is reserved through the following processes: (1) Determination of livestock grazing capacity based on lands which are suitable for use by livestock. (2) Establishment of utilization standards and proper use criteria within allotment management plans. Utilization standards and proper use criteria reflect the management requirements of other resources such as riparian areas, key habitats used by wildlife and use by recreational livestock.

Reintroduction of wildlife species is provided for within the FEIS/Plan. Prior to any reintroduction taking place an analysis would be undertaken to insure proper forage will be available for the newly established species.

73-15 Please refer to response number 73-12.

73-16 The Plan provides direction to manage riparian areas under multiple use and to improve all riparian areas which are in less than satisfactory ecological condition. Specific standards and guidelines have been added and some standards and guidelines in the draft have been revised to provide better riparian management. Some types of management options for riparian areas discussed within the standards and guidelines are rest/rotation grazing systems, improved herding, salting practices, closures, fencing, stablization projects, etc. The strengthened riparian standards and guidelines meet the expectations of USDA wildlife and fish management policy. Direction to inventory all riparian areas has been included within the FEIS/Plan.

We reviewed the American Fisheries Society publication you referred to, and other publications during the development of our Forest-wide standards and guidelines. Information from these publications has been incorporated where appropriate.

73 CONT. COMMENTS

Letter to Robert Graves
September 20, 1985
Page 3

outlined in a paper published by the American Fisheries Society entitled "The Best Management Practices for Management and Protection of Western Riparian Stream Ecosystems". We would view this as a very positive step toward correcting neglected riparian habitats. 73-18

Respectfully submitted,

Bob McGinty
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Elko County Conservation Association

RESPONSES

See response 73-16 above.

SEP 24 1985

# 74

4-21-85

Mr. B. J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Sir,

I want to strongly encourage wilderness protection
for many areas in your forest. Construction of 74-1
roads in or near these roadless areas should be avoided. Also.
Special protection of Bristlecone Pines is important. 74-2
The areas I am concerned about are

- Jarbidge Additions - increase proposal to include Camp
Creek, headwaters of Canyon Creek and area west of 74-3
St. Mary's River, to total 54,000 acres of wilderness
- Elk Mountain - recommend 12,500 acres as wilderness 74-4
- Santa Rosa Mts - recommend 80,000 acres as wilderness 74-5
- Ruby Mts - include northern portion of the range for a total 74-6
of 150,000 acres of wilderness.
- East Humboldt - acquire private land in Acker Basin by
direct purchase - 30,000 acres recommended for wilderness. 74-7
- Pearl Peak - extend boundary to southeast for 23,000 acres 74-8
of wilderness.
- South Schell - designate 120,000 acres as wilderness. 74-9
- Mount Moriah - expand proposal to southeast for a total 74-10
of 98,000 acres.
- Wheeler Peak - include Highland Range and road to Johnson 74-11
Lake to total 120,000 acres of wilderness

74-1 Construction or reconstruction of roads within roadless areas recommended for wilderness designation is prohibited for all activities except mining. Since there are no buffer zones around wilderness areas or areas recommended for wilderness, road construction or reconstruction can occur up to the boundary line.

74-2 We appreciate your concern for the protection of bristlecone pine. The standards and guidelines presented within the Forest Plan will provide for adequate protection of the bristlecone pine.

74-3 Please refer to response number 8-5.

74-4 Please refer to response number 8-11.

74-5 Please refer to response number 8-12.

74-6 Please refer to response number 8-4.

74-7 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

74-8 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

74-9 Please refer to response number 61-7.

74-10 Please refer to response number 8-2.

74-11 Please refer to response number 8-1.

74 CONT. COMMENTS

[illegible] 24 1985 (2) # 74

- Currant Mountain (Duckwater) - protect 49,000 acres as wilderness | 74-12
- Grant Range - expand boundaries to include 60,000 acres wilderness and protect bighorn sheep. | 74-13
- Quinn Canyon Range - follow recommendation of RARE II and designate 95,000 acres. | 74-14

I have hiked extensively in many of the above areas and am planning to visit the rest. Nevada has alot of beautiful country, important for recreation and wildlife, that should be protected as wilderness. I am a native Nevadan and these areas are part of my heritage. I want to see them protected.

Sincerely

Ann Pitchford
942 Dalton Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89119

RESPONSES

74-12 Please refer to response number 8-3.

74-13 Please refer to response number 14-11.

74-14 Please refer to response number 8-7.

75 COMMENTS

#15

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

I am writing on behalf of the following areas which I feel should be included in the Humboldt forest management plan. In this day and age when so much of our land is being developed and mined, I think that it is essential to set aside places which will be designated as wilderness and roadless areas so that some of our beautiful Nevada lands can remain undisturbed. When you look at a map, these areas represent a small percentage of land in this state. There must be land that can be saved for wildlife as well as for aesthetic reasons for this generation and for posterity. Please give this plan strong consideration.

Jarbidge I would urge you to include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and the country west of St. Mary's River for a total of 54,000 acres. | 75-1

Santa Rosa Mountains please recommend at least 80,000 acres. | 75-2

East Humboldt private land in Acker Basin could be acquired and 30,000 acres recommended for wilderness protection. | 75-3

Elk Mountain please recommend 12,500 acres for wilderness protection. | 75-4

Ruby Mountains the northern range should be included for a total of 150,000 acres. | 75-5

Pearl Peak because of the Bristlecone Pine and the wildlife, the boundary should be extended to the southeast for a total of 23,000 acres. | 75-6

South Schell 120,000 acres of this wilderness should be supported for wilderness designation. | 75-7

Mount Moriah please expand your proposal to include the southeast portion of the roadless area for a total of 98,000 acres. | 75-8

Wheeler Peak because of the Bristlecone Pine forests in this area, please designate 120,000 acres in your proposal from the upper campground to Johnson Lake. | 75-9

Currant Mountain (Duckwater) because of Bristlecone, Bighorn Sheep, and mule deer, please give protection to 49,000 acres. | 75-10

Grant Range please include 60,000 more acres here to provide greater protection for the desert bighorn. | 75-11

Quinn Canyon Range this has already been recommended by the Forest Service in RARE II. Please designate 95,000 acres. | 75-12

Kathleen Curtis
Kathleen Curtis
P.O. Box 10
Truckee, CA 95734

RESPONSES

75-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

75-2 Please refer to response number 8-12.

75-3 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

75-4 Please refer to response number 8-11.

75-5 Please refer to response number 8-4.

75-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

75-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

75-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

75-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

75-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

75-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

75-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

SEP 24 1985

#76

Genny Lynch
P. O. Box 88
[illegible]

To B.T. Crave;
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, N.V. 89801

Dear Sir,

I am very concerned that Nevada has only one designated wilderness area at present. I strongly urge that the following areas also be designated as wilderness areas. The Jarbridge area should be increased to include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek and west of St. Marys River for another 54,000 acres. 76-1

Elk Mountain needs 12,500 acres designated to protect its hunting and fishing. 76-2

The Santa Rosa Mountains should have 80,000 acres protected. 76-3

The Ruby Mountains should have 150,000 acres of its excellent hiking country saved as wilderness. 76-4

East Humboldt's lakes should be protected with 30,000 acres of wilderness. 76-5

Pear Peak should be extended southeast another 23,000 acres to preserve the unique Bristle Cone Pine. 76-6

The South Schell Creek Range needs 120,000 acres protected. 76-7

76-1	Please refer to response number 8-5.
76-2	Please refer to response number 8-11.
76-3	Please refer to response number 8-12.
76-4	Please refer to response number 8-4.
76-5	In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.
76-6	It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.
76-7	Please refer to response number 61-7.

Mount Moriah needs to be expanded to the southeast another 98,000 acres. 76-8

Wheeler Peak with its glacier and rare Bristle Cone Pine forests should have 120,000 acres designated. 76-9

Currant Mountain should have 49,000 acres set aside. 76-10

Grant Range should be expanded to 60,000 acres to protect the big horn sheep. 76-11

The Quinn Canyon Range should have 95,000 acres of wilderness set aside. 76-12

Nevada with its rapidly growing population and industry needs to protect its wilderness areas now so that they will remain to be enjoyed by us and future generations.

Thankyou

Genevieve F. Lynch

76-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

76-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

76-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

76-11 Please refer to response number 18-11.

76-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

77 **COMMENTS**

SEP 24 1985

#77

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV. 89801

September 20, 1985

Dear Sirs,

I'm writing to express my concern for Humboldt National Forest Lands. I urge you to maintain the following areas under wilderness protection:

1) Jarbidge Additions (54,000 acres incl. Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and areas West of Mary's River) 77-1
2) Elk Mountain (12,500 acres) 77-2
3) Santa Rosa (80,000 acres) 77-3
4) Ruby Mountains (150,000 acres incl. Northern Range) 77-4
5) East Humboldt (30,000 acres incl. land in Acker Basin) 77-5
6) Pearl Peak (23,000 acres) 77-6
7) South Schell (120,000 acres) 77-7
8) Mt. Moriah (98,000 acres incl. Southeast Portion) 77-8
9) Wheeler Peak (120,000 acres and Please close the road to Johnson Lake above the campground) 77-9
10) Currant Mountain (49,000 acres) 77-10
11) Grant Range (60,000 acres) 77-11
12) Quinn Canyon Range (95,000 acres) 77-12

By the time the next review of Forest management plans takes place these areas are likely to be heavily impacted by man and their wilderness potential lost. Therefore, it is essential to protect these unique and beautiful places. Once they are changed, we will never have them back again.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ann R Kersten
Ann Kersten
1650 Royal Dr.
Reno. NV 89503

RESPONSES

77-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

77-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

77-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

77-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

77-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

77-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

77-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

77-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

77-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

77-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

77-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

77-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

MR. GRAVES; SEP 24 1985 #78

I'M WRITING TO ASK YOU TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ROADLESS AREAS FOR WILDERNESS PROTECTION; EXPAND JARBIDGE TO CAMP CREEK, HEADWATERS OF CANYON CREEK + WEST OF MARY'S RIVER; QUINN CANYON + GRANT RANGES, ELK MTN., SCHELL CREEK RANGE, MT MORIAH, HIGHLAND RIDGE OF THE WHEELER PEAK AREA, CURRANT MTN, SANTA ROSA MTNS., AND AS MUCH OF THE RUBY MTNS AS POSSIBLE. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS TOWARDS SAVING THESE AREAS IN THEIR NATURAL STATE.

THANKS,
JAMES R. SHAWNIK
BOX 7890
RENO, NV. 89510

78-1 thru 78-10

78-1	Please refer to response number 8-5.
78-2	Please refer to response number 8-7.
78-3	Please refer to response number 14-11.
78-4	Please refer to response number 8-11.
78-5	Please refer to response number 61-7.
78-6	Please refer to response number 8-2.
78-7	Please refer to response number 8-1.
78-8	Please refer to response number 8-3.
78-9	Please refer to response number 8-12.
78-10	Please refer to response number 8-4.

79 COMMENTS

SEP 2

#79

MR Graves, We ~~Support~~ Support The Areas below As wilderness because of The wildlife And recreational values.
The Jarbridge Additions - Elk mountain -
SANTA ROSA - Ruby mountains -
EAST Humbolt - pearl Peak -
South schell - mount moriah -
wheeler Peak - currant MT (Duckwater)
Grant Range And Quinn Canyon Range.
I hope That reconstruction of roads be stoped in or near The roadless Areas. (Lets Save The wilderness)

79-1 thru 79-13

RESPONSES

79-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

79-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

79-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

79-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

79-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

79-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

79-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

79-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

79-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

79-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

79-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

79-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

79-13 Please refer to response number 14-3.

SEP 24 1985 148

Donald J. Devoto

2010 Tremont Lane
Reno, NV 89509

September 19, 1985

Dear Mr. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

My purpose in writing you is to express my concern in maintaining the National Forest in its present state.

Wilderness areas throughout our country are being threatened, and this particular acreage to me is of utmost importance.

80-1 Therefore, I request your vote of confidence in maintaining the Humboldt as it is today.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Devoto

B.J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

80-1 No response necessary.

81 COMMENTS

1650 Royal Drive
Reno, NV 89503
Sept. 21, 1985

81

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Sir:

Please maintain the areas listed below under Wilderness Protection:

1. Jarbidge Additions (54,000 acres including Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and areas west of Mary's River) 81-1
2. Elk Mountain (12,500 acres) 81-2
3. Santa Rosa (80,000 acres) 81-3
4. Ruby Mountains (150,000 acres incl. Northern Range) 81-4
5. East Humboldt (30,000 acres incl. land in Acker Basin) 81-5
6. Pearl Peak (23,000 acres) 81-6
7. SouthSchell (120,000 acres) 81-7
8. Mt. Moriah (98,000 acres including Southeast Portion) 81-8
9. Wheeler Peak (120,000 acres and the road to Johnson Lake above the campground should be closed) 81-9
10. Currant Mountain (49,000 acres) 81-10
11. Grant Range (60,000 acres) 81-11
12. Quinn Canyon Range (95,000 acres) 81-12

These areas must be protected now. Any delay will only hasten the potential damage, and make them unfit for future Wilderness designation. It is essential you do all you can to protect these areas. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Betty Kersten

Betty Kersten (Mrs. Earl W.)

RESPONSES

81-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

81-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

81-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

81-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

81-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

81-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

81-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

81-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

81-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

81-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

81-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

81-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

82 COMMENTS

Dear Mr. Graver SEP 24 19 9/20/85 #82

My environmental organization tells me that forest service management plans are finalizing in the state of Nevada. I see Nevada as a mountainous area with many desert ranges. Some of these deserve wilderness status, as currently protects Jarbridge, Elk mountain, and the Ruby mountains are obvious choices. However, other more remote and less known areas offer an opportunity to protect wilderness in keeping with the philosophies of the great environmental writers. Unique biological features could be preserved if one or more of the following areas could be designated as wilderness: Santa Rosa mountains, Schell Creek Range, White Pine Range. The Quinn Canyon range also deserves wilderness status, having been protected under RARE II since 1973.

Finally, Mt. Moriah and Wheeler Peak wild areas are superb alpine environments that need as extensive protective boundaries as is feasible.

Thank-you for your attention to these considerations,

Bill Broeckel

82-1
thru
82-9

RESPONSES

82-1	Please refer to response number 8-5.
82-2	Please refer to response number 8-11.
82-3	Please refer to response number 8-4.
82-4	Please refer to response number 8-12.
82-5	Please refer to response number 61-7.
82-6	Please refer to response number 8-3.
82-7	Please refer to response number 8-7.
82-8	Please refer to response number 8-2.
82-9	Please refer to response number 8-1.

83 COMMENTS

Mr. Grano: SEP 24 1985 # 83

I am writing to express my support for wilderness designation for the roadless areas of the Humboldt National Forest. I strongy oppose construction and/or reconstruction of roads in or near roadless areas and urge you to do the same. 83-1 83-2

Marie Lindgren
1331 Stanford #2
Santa Monica CA
90404

RESPONSES

83-1 **Please refer to response number 14-1.**

83-2 **Please refer to response number 14-3.**

SEP 24 1985

Sept. 23, 1985
94

Mr. B.J. [illegible]
Forest Supervisor.

Dear Sir;

I strongly urge wilderness protection for the following areas under your supervision; (With maximum acreage). Jarbidge Additions, Elk Mt., Santa Rosa, Ruby Mt., East Humboldt, Pearl Peak, South Schell, Mt. Moriah, Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone), Currant Mt., Grant Range, Quinn Canyon Range. The proposed "standards and guidelines" for timber, range, riparian areas, and wildlife should be applied wherever possible.

84-1 thru 84-12

This we owe to future generations who will thank us for saving the above for them. VTY.

Ivor Jesse Sandorf

84-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

84-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

84-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

84-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

84-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

84-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

84-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

84-8 Please refer to response number 9-2.

84-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

84-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

84-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

84-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

85 COMMENTS

85

SEP 2[illegible] 19[illegible]

September 19,1985

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor

PLEASE SAVE OUR WILDERNESS

This letter comes from a very concerned citizen about the future management plans for our NATIONAL FOREST, the Toiyabe and Humboldt.

The management plans fail to recommend vast areas of roadless acreage for consideration as wilderness. Most of these lands will be destiyed before the next reveiw of forest management plans; ten to fifteen years from now.

These are some of the areas that need wilderness protection; NOBLE CANYON, WEST WALKER ADDITIONS TO THE HOOVER WILDERNESS, SWEETWATER MOUNTAINS, EAST HOOVER ADDITIONS, MT. ROSE, MT. JEFFERSON, TOIYABE RANGE PEAK, TABLE MOUNTAIN, ARC DOME,MT. CHARLESTON (include mummy mountain in the wilderness plan and acquire private lands for a total of about 50,000 acres), EXCELSIOR MOUNTAINS, JARBRIDGE ADDITIONS, ELK MOUNTAIN, SANTA ROSA, RUBY MOUNTAINS (the Forest Service's proposal should be enlarged to include the northern portion of the range for a total of 150,000 acres), EAST HUMBOLTD PEARL PEAK, SOUTH SCHELL, MOUNT MORIAH, WHEELER PEAK (BRISTLECONE), CURRANT MOUNTAIN(DUCKWATER), GRANT RANGE and QUINN CANYON. 85-1 thru 85-12

I do support the proposed "standards and guidelines" for timber, range, riparian areas and WILDLIFE. 85-13

We need the protection of these lands for our future generations so that we can pass on the great beauty of this country.

Respectfully,

Joseph A. Viscuglia
127 Tyrol Way
Mt. Charleston, Nevada 89124

RESPONSES

85-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

85-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

85-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

85-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

85-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

85-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

85-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

85-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

85-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

85-10 Please refer to response number 9-3.

85-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

85-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

85-13 We appreciate your support for the standards and guidelines.

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STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
1100 Valley Road
P.O. Box 10678
Reno, Nevada 89520-0022
(702) 789-0500

RICHARD H. BRYAN
Governor

WILLIAM A. MOLINI
Director

September 23, 1985

Mr. B.J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear B.J.:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed Forest Plan and DEIS. The plan has been reviewed by NDOW staff at both the regional and state office levels. We have found the plan complex and, in several areas, difficult to follow. We offer the following comments as the result of our review.

GENERAL COMMENTS

We feel the Forest Plan proposes to adopt an alternative that essentially maintains the current level and direction of management. This level and direction certainly applies to wildlife, as it appears the level of emphasis in the preferred alternative is status quo. We are disappointed that an alternative was not selected that placed a higher emphasis on wildlife in relation to other resource values. The Humboldt National Forest does provide some of the most productive and diverse wildlife habitats in the State of Nevada. In such an arid state, these relatively productive habitats the Forest provides are vital to our wildlife resources. Although many actions are identified in the plan as provisional for preserving wildlife habitat and populations, most actions are merely mitigations for actions to be taken to improve other resource values, and of those, primarily grazing improvement. However, we also feel that a commitment of dollars and specific projects is certainly not the only way to benefit wildlife. The commitment to design and implement AMP's that will result in overall improved ecological conditions to native ranges will also benefit wildlife. The Forest is nearing the goal of having all allotments managed under an AMP; and along with planned updates and revisions, there have been many positive benefits to wildlife. In our opinion, overall ecological condition has improved along with a corresponding improvement in many wildlife habitats.

86 CONT. COMMENTS

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We feel it is very important to note that when the Forest went to the public to identify the issues to be addressed in future Forest management, the issue of how the Forest should manage wildlife was second, after wilderness, in the amount of public concern expressed. The plan states "these issues, concerns, and opportunities must be addressed in the plan to provide appropriate and effective management direction for the Forest." The word appropriate is key, in that appropriate emphasis, commensurate with the public response, must be made. An appropriate emphasis, in relation to the public response, was given to wilderness as the Forest is proposing to increase the amount of wilderness by 285,810 acres. We have determined that the Forest is proposing to emphasize wildlife on the Forest very near to the current level with no significant increases in funding. We feel this level of management is not appropriate considering the level of public concern expressed on this issue. 86-1

We hoped the plan would identify a need in the preferred alternative for additional biologists, both at the Forest and district level; however, we saw no such commitment. Field biologists are urgently needed to assure that wildlife is adequately evaluated and included in all land use issues. Particularly, biologists are needed to provide input at the AMP level and to conduct monitoring and studies. Very often, if biologists are available for close coordination on project and land use planning, more benefits can accrue to wildlife than under specific wildlife projects. 86-2

The standards and guidelines are a very important element in the Forest Plan. Standards and guidelines which are strong and decisive can be an asset to wildlife, in that they define limits or eliminate many of the adverse impacts, answer mitigation if adverse impacts occur, and assure that all districts are consistent in a given situation. We feel the Forest must review the current standards and guidelines to make sure they are consistent between districts. Also many of the standards are quite vague and could easily be interpreted differently by various personnel. The very term "standard" conveys something that is precise and quantifiable with a strong direction of what can or cannot be done. Many of the current standards and guidelines do not meet these criteria. 86-3
We suggest the Forest adopt standards which will address or assure the adoption of the following management practices: 86-4

1. On key deer winter ranges, set maximum livestock utilization levels of 20-30 percent on key browse species. 86-5

2. If wildfire occurs on key deer winter range, any reseeding will include native browse species adaptable to the site. If sagebrush is a needed component of the habitat requirements, then sagebrush will be included in any seed mixture. 86-6

3. Improve to a good or better condition class 50 percent of stream riparian habitat in poor or worse condition. 86-7

RESPONSES

86-1 We have increased the management emphasis level for wildlife/fish within the preferred alternative after reviewing and evaluating public comment.

86-2 The above mentioned strengthened emphasis doesn't specify numbers of any particular positions. Undoubtedly, if the wildlife/fish budgets increase we'll have more biologists. In the past we have used both the Forest biologists and the Department's biologists to provide the needed coordination on projects and AMP development. We will continue to use this same process.

86-3 We agree with you concerning the need to review the current standards and guidelines. We have revised the format to include a list of Forest-wide standards and guidelines. Only those specific to a management area will be left in the management area description. This will aid in assuring consistency among management areas. We feel that the standards and guidelines do provide strong direction although not all of the standards and guidelines are quantifiable.

86-4 Forest-wide standards and guidelines are included in the Plan which address your concerns.

86-5 Forage utilization standards are established for each grazing allotment as a part of the allotment management plan. These utilization standards are developed by an interdisciplinary team, including an NDOW representative, to insure that specific resource objectives are met.

86-6 The following standards and guidelines express the Forest's commitment to improving and/or maintaining key mule deer winter range and address the management practices the Department listed:

a. Protect and improve key habitat.
b. Fire management planning will recognize the need to protect key winter habitats.
c. Applying vegetative treatments on winter range which will improve habitat condition.
d. Maintain productivity of wildlife habitat through direct habitat improvement and coordination with other land use programs.
e. Design range improvements (structural and non-structural) to meet and accomodate wildlife needs.

86-7 The Forest has made a commitment to improving all range in less than satisfactory ecological condition. This is stated in the "Goals" section and as Forest-wide Management Direction.

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4. Vegetative manipulation that would alter the potential natural plant community will not be allowed in riparian areas. 86-8

5. Crested wheatgrass seedings will not be located in crucial big game habitats. 86-9

6. Alteration of sagebrush areas either through application of herbicides, prescribed burning or by mechanical means will be in accordance with procedures specified in the Western State's Sage Grouse Guidelines. 86-10

7. Support the introduction, reintroduction, or augmentation of wildlife species where such transplants are shown to be in the public interest. 86-11

On the Humboldt National Forest, mule deer are a major contributor to recreational use and economics of the Forest. Their importance cannot be equaled, since even collectively the populations of other big game animals come nowhere near matching those of deer. The Forest tauts the fact that over half of the mule deer taken by hunters in Nevada each year are harvested on this Forest. However, we see no emphasis or commitment to enhance this very important resource for the public benefit. The preferred alternative proposes to maintain populations of management indicator species, which include mule deer at current levels. In 1981, we met with the Forest Land Management Planning Team to discuss goal statements for mule deer. Basically, it was our understanding that goal statements should reflect outputs at three levels of funding. The low level would correspond to our current reasonable numbers. The moderate level would reflect a population capable of supporting a harvest that would meet current demand for deer tags. The high level would reflect a population capable of supporting a harvest that would meet anticipated demand five years from now, or possible some other demand yet to be determined. The preferred alternative proposes to manage below the low level or reasonable numbers. We feel the Forest should at least manage for reasonable numbers. 86-12

We feel the Forest Plan does not adequately identify the value of riparian areas nor does the plan present enough commitment that will resolve riparian area concerns and address the overall importance. In the Department of Agriculture's policy on fish and wildlife, it states that management practices on national forest systems lands will give special attention to riparian habitats. The policy states no management practices will be permitted within the riparian vegetative zone that causes detrimental changes in water temperature or chemical composition, discharges from water courses, and deposits of sediments that seriously and adversely affect water condition or fish habitat. We do not see where the Forest Plan commits to this policy statement. 86-13

RESPONSES

86-8 Vegetative manipulation projects will not be undertaken in riparian areas except to improve the riparian area.

86-9 Please refer to response number 86-6.

86-10 We reviewed this and other publications when we developed our Forest-wide standards and guidelines. Information from these publications has been incorporated where applicable.

86-11 The Forest agrees that wildlife introduction, reintroduction, or augmentation is a part of multiple use management. The Forest-wide standard and guideline has been revised to express this intent in a more positive manner.

86-12 The Forest Plan provides emphasis to improve management of wildlife/fish habitat. We expect that deer numbers, as well as numbers of other MIS should respond to improved habitat conditions.

86-13 The Plan provides direction to manage riparian areas for multiple use and to improve all riparian areas which are in less than satisfactory ecological condition. Specific standards and guidelines have been added and some standards and guidelines presented in the draft have been revised to provide better riparian management. The strengthened riparian standards and guidelines meet the expectations of U.S.D.A. wildlife and fish management policy.

86 CONT. COMMENTS

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In the standards and guidelines for riparian area management, reference was made to a Water Resource Inventory; however, we could not find any such inventory in the Forest Plan. We thought an updated inventory, delineating current condition and trend of all riparian areas, would be an essential and integral part of the Forest Plan. 86-14 Once that inventory was complete, the Forest could give special attention to improving those in less than satisfactory condition. In fact the type of riparian management commitment we had hoped to see was to have a certain percentage of less than satisfactory riparian areas upgraded to a good or better condition in a certain number of years. 86-15

In recognition of the importance that riparian areas play in the overall productiveness of the Forest, we suggest that one more standard and guideline be adopted. This would be the acceptance of the American Fisheries Society paper entitled "The Best Management Practices for the Management and Protection of Western Riparian Stream Ecosystems" as the fundamental management standard for riparian areas on the Humboldt National Forest. 86-16

In summary, we feel the Forest Plan must place more emphasis on the overall importance of riparian areas and then commit the management practices that are commensurate with the importance and to assure that all riparian areas are in good or better condition in a certain number of years.

Economic Analysis

The economic analysis, in regards to wildlife oriented recreation, is very brief, confusingly presented, and in some cases presents data that is not accurate. We strongly disagree with the values for the Humboldt National Forest wildlife/user days. For example, the $23.10 per day value for big game hunting in Nevada is way too low. Other values may be low and this analysis must be updated to reflect current values in Nevada. 86-17

In Tables II-5-A to II-13-B that compare the resource outputs and benefits for the alternatives, we see that for each alternative the benefits in undiscounted 1982 dollars of wildlife and fish exceed that of range. We feel this is significant in that any proposed plan should then place more emphasis on wildlife and fish than on range. This is not the case as wildlife is certainly not receiving more management and budgetary emphasis than is the range program on the Forest. 86-18

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Forest Plan Overview

Under fire protection it states that treatment will result in increased habitat diversity. We feel this is not a statement that can be used as a blanket assumption. 86-19

RESPONSES

86-14 The "water resource inventory" is an inventory of stream flows and other water sources as part of the Forest's program to obtain the water rights necessary to manage the National Forest. The Forest also maintains a watershed improvement inventory need which identifies projects for riparian rehabilitation.

86-15 Management direction is provided in the Plan to maintain all rangeland that is in satisfactory ecological condition and to improve range that is in less than satisfactory condition. We will inventory and monitor riparian areas to insure that management directions are being met.

86-16 Please refer to response number 86-10.

86-17 Please refer to response number 23-4.

86-18 The Forest Plan provides direction and emphasis for improved management of wildlife habitat in response to public comments and needs. Increased funding in range reflects the need to coordinate livestock grazing with other resource activities and to mitigate potential adverse impacts associated with livestock grazing.

86-19 Under the fire protection section it states that large, continuous, even-aged fuel areas will receive emphasis for treatment. One benefit of this treatment will be increased wildlife habitat diversity. It is a generally accepted concept that a mosaic of various aged plant communities does provide more diverse wildlife habitat than continuous even-aged communities.

86 CONT. COMMENTS

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We disagree that road and building construction create the most impact on the Forests soil and vegetative resources. We feel livestock have a much greater overall influence. 86-20

We do not concur with the statement that areas not suitable for long-term livestock grazing are used considerably by big game animals. Areas suitable for livestock are used considerably more by big game than areas not suitable. 86-21

Management Plan and Draft EIS

Alternative A

The MIS are discussed long before the reader finds out what species were even picked. 86-22

Why was improved coordination with NDOW to accomplish increased aquatic habitat capability brought up under the objective of this alternative? It seems the same level of coordination should be possible under any alternative because of current MOU's, federal laws and regulations, and Forest policies. 86-23

Why were wildlife values proposed to receive a high emphasis under an alternative that realistically stands no chance of acceptance because 42 areas were proposed for wilderness? 86-24

Alternative B

It is stated in this and in several alternatives that habitat for T & E species will be improved. This is a solid commitment as long as the cutthroat is listed; but since the delisting is imminent, this is in reality a very shallow commitment. How would habitat be improved for bald eagles? 86-25

Alternative D

This alternative states that riparian habitat will deteriorate from its present condition. Can the Forest legally take this position or even consider it? 86-26

Alternative E

The wildlife objectives sound very much like the current situation rather than what would happen under a constrained budget. 86-27

Alternative J

How would habitat of the peregrine falcon be expanded to maximum potential? 86-28

RESPONSES

86-20 **We agree that livestock grazing affects a large percentage of the Forest. However, most livestock grazing does not have an irreversible effect on the soil resource. Road and building construction does have a significant adverse impact on soils which is irreversible.**

86-21 **We recognize that wildlife habitat is found throughout the Forest, on suitable and unsuitable livestock range. The intent was not to state that big game do not use range which is also suitable for livestock. The word "considerable" has been deleted to better convey this information.**

86-22 **We agree that our mention of Management Indicator Species (MIS) without additional information is difficult for the reader to follow. We have included a footnote on this page which states which species were selected and also refers the reader to Chapter III of the FEIS for a discussion on MIS.**

86-23 **We agree that the statement concerning coordination is applicable to all alternatives. We have moved it from the description of Alternative A to item H of "Alternatives Considered in Detail" as a component of all alternatives.**

86-24 **The Forest Service is directed to consider an array of alternatives that reflects the full range of major commodity and non-commodity resource uses and values that could be produced from the Forest. A part of the entire package of each of these various alternatives is the amount of acreage that would be recommended as wilderness. Alternative A is on one end of the spectrum as a "Non-commodity/environmental use" alternative and therefore it included a large amount of wilderness acres. The non-commodity modifier indicates that the management emphasis for wildlife/fish would be high on those areas not recommended for wilderness. Each of the alternatives have some acceptance from some publics based on their values but our charge was to select the alternative that maximizes net public benefits.**

86-25 **The Forest Plan provides management direction to provide habitat for sensitive and Federally listed T&E species. We feel that this is a genuine commitment and we will continue to maintain the policy of cooperating with NDOW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on wildlife habitat improvement projects and in the coordination of wildlife needs with other resource activities. Lahontan cutthroat trout will be a sensitive species upon its impending de-listing as a Federally listed endangered species.**

86-26 **Alterantive D specifically addresses what outputs would be derived if the budget remains at the current level. It is an important alternative because it reflects what the public can expect from the Forest at a static funding level.**

86-27 **Within Current Management (Alt. H) and the Constrained Budget (Alt. E), the expected outputs for wildlife/fish are displayed. Under the Constrained Budget the Forest would not cooperate in efforts to improve habitat for the reintroduction of peregrine falcons. In addition production on big game winter ranges would decline and all hunted MIS would decrease. This is in sharp contrast to the current situation.**

86-28 **Under Non-market (Alt. J), resources which have non-market opportunities such as wildlife receive priority. There would be additional funds available for the Forest to participate more with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NDOW programs for recovery of the peregrine falcon.**

86 CONT. COMMENTS RESPONSES

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COMMENTS			RESPONSES
Alternative K			
It is stated that additional lands will be acquired as needed to (1) optimize recreational opportunities, (2) optimize wildlife habitat values and (3) optimize soil and water values. This is an excellent goal, but in reality will it ever occur at any level that is meaningful?	86-29	86-29	In the Preferred (Alt. K), we agree that the statements concerning acquiring needed additional lands is incorrect. We have restated it in the Final Plan to "allow us to acquire lands if the opportunity arises."
How will habitat for T & E species, other than cutthroat, be improved?	86-30	86-30	As habitat improvement needs are identified for T&E species efforts will be made to meet these needs. Management under this alternative will prevent any deterioration and provide for a gradual improvement of habitat conditions for T&E species. An implementation schedule for wildlife/fish habitat improvement has been developed in cooperation with NDOW. Specific projects are listed in the Forest Action Schedule.
It states that the quality of aquatic habitats will be maintained. Does this mean that poor quality habitats will be maintained in a poor condition?	86-31	86-31	We agree that our statement "aquatic habitats will be maintained" is misleading. We intend to maintain riparian areas in at least satisfactory ecological condition. This section in the Plan has been changed to reflect this intent.
It appears that the long-term objectives for the preferred alternative is to maintain recreation sites, aquatic habitat, big game winter range and MIS population levels, reduce dispersed recreation and increase AUM's. Livestock production will receive the only increased emphasis on the Forest.	86-32	86-32	Emphasis has been increased for wildlife/fish management across the Forest. All resources mentioned in your comment will be intensively managed to meet increasing demands. Livestock use increases over the planning period due to the increased management level. Increased management emphasis is not limited solely to livestock production.
Page II-13			
We do not feel that the maximum grazing benchmark will produce 13 percent more deer annually.	86-33	86-33	Although the benchmark you refer to is entitled "Maximum Grazing", the intent is not to increase livestock grazing at the expense of other resources. Wildlife/fish management and livestock grazing are not mutually exclusive. The management necessary to maximize grazing will result in improved wildlife habitat.
Page II-72, Table II-13-8			
The total acres of wildlife habitat improvement in the next 50 years is only 802 acres or .03 percent of the Forest. However, we see at least 18,990 acres of vegetal manipulation being proposed for range improvement.	86-34	86-34	The acres of wildlife habitat improvement have been revised to reflect those generated through the development of our cooperative wildlife implementation schedule. The projects are listed by Management Area within the Forest Action Schedule. Range improvement projects are designed to be compatible with wildlife/fish.
Page II-77			
On one page it states that Alternative K will allow winter ranges to accommodate current population levels and to support larger populations. In the preferred alternative narrative (page II-68) it says big game winter range will be maintained at current production levels. Which is correct?	86-35	86-35	The statements in Chapter II regarding big game winter ranges have been reworded to reflect our intent to improve them.
Page III-17		86-36	The range surveys mentioned in Chapter III of the EIS are not exclusive to mule deer. These surveys are part of our ongoing allotment monitoring, soil/vegetation surveys or range allotment analysis. As situations warrant, specific habitat surveys are undertaken.
We see very little data on mule deer forage production, utilization, condition and trend even though the Forest Plan states it is being done.	86-36		
The Department does not monitor goshawk populations annually.	86-37	86-37	We have changed the statement concerning the monitoring of goshawk populations.

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Page III-19

The Department has had completed for some time a Wildlife Policy Plan for the Management of Nevada's Wildlife Through 1990. 86-38

Page III-21

It cannot be assumed that the 71,328 acres seeded on the Forest is supplying a considerable amount of forage for big game animals. In most cases, the big game use was certainly not an objective of the seeding. 86-39

Will the 2,000 acres now documented in this plan become an annual target? 86-40

Page III-38

The plan states that "When an ROW (right-of-way) is in the public interest and the property owner is unwilling to grant an easement, the right of eminent domain can be used." In what specific instances has this been done in the last ten years?

It also states "the Forest presently acquires three rights-of-way annually." Where are the 12 ROW's acquired in the last four years? 86-41

Page IV-13

It is stated here, and in several places throughout the plan, that vegetal manipulation will increase habitat for deer on winter and summer range. Such statements cannot be made unless sufficient detail of such projects is presented to substantiate the statement. In many cases vegetal manipulation has been very detrimental to wildlife. 86-42

Page IV-14

It states "Riparian areas will be slightly improved under the preferred alternative..." How will this slight improvement be measured? 86-43

Table IV-5

Is it possible or even realistic to make comparisons between 51,940 and 53,000 deer, a difference of 1,060 for different alternatives, out to the year 2036? Even sophisticated and detailed survey methods could not provide data to come close to this accurate of a population estimate on a forest-wide basis. 86-44

Page IV-17

We totally support the commitment to increase the percentage from 70 percent to 82 percent of the suitable range in satisfactory condition. We hope that this will not be at the expense of native range conversion. 86-45

RESPONSES

86-38 The statement regarding NDOW's Wildlife Policy Plan has been reworded to note its completion. The goals and strategies presented within the NDOW Policy Plan are reflected in the FEIS/Plan.

86-39 The restoration of 71,328 acres of depleted ranges to desirable forage species receives significant use by livestock and big game. Big game use is a very important consideration in all range manipulation projects. Although the driving force and primary funding for many projects may be livestock oriented, big game are considered and do benefit.

86-40 The 2,000 acres mentioned is approximate or average annual accomplishments that have occurred in the past. The Forest Action Schedule specifies projects that will be accomplished within the first ten years of the planning horizon.

86-41 The right of eminent domain has been exercised once in the past ten years. The action was completed in 1976. This involved an access road into the Ruby Mountain Administration Site.

86-42 A preponderance of evidence suggests that well planned and executed vegetative manipulation projects benefit livestock and wildlife. Any project designed to benefit one wildlife species will benefit other species with similar habitat requirements, while at the same time being detrimental to wildlife species with conflicting or opposite habitat requirements. Projects are developed for an area to meet objectives which are site and species specific.

86-43 The range analysis procedures in use at the present time outline the methodology to determine range condition on vegetative types including wet meadows, stream banks, and other riparian habitats. Interdisciplinary teams will also delineate areas requiring special attention and design an appropriate criteria for monitoring.

86-44 Outputs for each alternative were generated by a computer model. We agree that the difference of 1,060 mule deer is not significant since these are only estimates of outputs for each alternative.

86-45 Conversion of the native vegetation range resource is only one tool available for improving range in less than satisfactory ecological condition. Improvement of range conditions will not be at the expense of native range.

86 CONT. COMMENTS

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Page IV-18

There is no quantification (acres, miles, condition and trend) of what riparian improvements will take place. 86-46

Proposed Forest Plan

Page II-6, Dispersed Recreation

"This will cause a rise in hunter and fishermen use which is disproportionate to the overall rise in total dispersed recreation." This statement is not valid when applied to the Jarbidge Ranger District. Opportunities exist to develop single unit camp sites throughout the Jarbidge District. The only developments necessary would be a picnic table and a fire pit. These are badly needed in the Big Island, Pole Creek, Canyon Creek, Camp Creek, Sun Creek, Wildcat Creek, Draw Creek, and Marys River areas. 86-47

Page II-11, Habitat Diversity

"Diversity of vegetation is generally good with better diversity for wildlife in the northern half of the Forest (36% grass, 14% forbs and 50% shrubs)... however, diversity on the northern half is expected to take a downward trend as a more grass dominated condition is expected to occur as a result of current management." The vegetation manipulation program of the Forest appears to be accelerating this trend. Perhaps some of the Forest's spray/burn prescriptions should be abandoned to retain better diversity. 86-48

Page II-11, State Agency Objectives

The Nevada Department of Wildlife's goals for the management of wildlife species are as follows: (1) mule deer, to approach reasonable numbers (24,000) by 1991; (2) pronghorn antelope, to increase the population level two to three times the current number by 1995. 86-49

Page II-16, Water

Severely damaged riparian areas exist in the Jarbidge Ranger District. Grazing management should be geared to allow healing of this damage, some of which is already irreversible. Condition and trend studies often fail to monitor the riparian areas where most of the irreversible damage has occurred. 86-50

Page II-22, Fire

"Prescribed burning is conducted for benefits to range and wildlife." What wildlife species are benefitted and how? Sage grouse and mule deer populations apparently have not shown a response to present burning programs. Additionally, pronghorn populations are 86-51

RESPONSES

86-46 Riparian area improvement projects are listed within the Forest Action Schedule, Chapter IV of the Final Plan.

86-47 We stand by our statement that hunter and fisherman use will rise in a disproportionate amount to the rise in overall dispersed recreation. In the "Analysis of the Management Situation", we state that there are opportunities to improve the dispersed recreational experience and reduce conflicts. This could be done by developing of a program to manage anticipated demand and encouraging use in more remote sites. These ideas were carried through into the Forest-wide management direction, standards, and guidelines. These single unit campsites are the most expensive type of recreation investment and not at all cost effective. With dwindling budgets it is unlikely that these types of projects will be undertaken.

86-48 A recently completed evaluation of vegetative manipulation projects on the Jarbidge Ranger District provided information which is contradictory to the statement in question. The original statement has been changed to reflect the most recent information. Our vegetative manipulation program is key to maintaining and improving diversity.

86-49 Please refer to response number 86-38.

86-50 We disagree that irreversible damage has occurred to riparian areas on the Jarbidge Ranger District. Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines specify that riparian areas will be monitored and management will be directed to improving those riparian areas in unsatisfactory ecological condition.

86-51 Please refer to response number 86-42.

86 CONT. COMMENTS

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probably responding to the wetter moisture patterns of the last couple
of years rather than to burns, per se.

Page II-32

It appears that the USFS is more interested in merely mitigating
wildlife impacts (indicating wildlife populations may be negatively
impacted), while for livestock they are only considering "increasing"
numbers. They should probably consider "adjusting" livestock numbers
because there are undoubtedly many areas where livestock numbers need to
be reduced or better managed. 86-52

Page III-2, Issue 2

There are some aquatic habitats that should be improved rather than
"maintained"; for example, Illipah and Ellison creeks in the White Pine
Division. 86-53

Page III-2, Issue 4

Once again livestock numbers "will be increased." What about
problem areas? 86-54

Page IV-51, Paragraph 2

A substantial number of deer use the area as summer range and some
deer migrate to winter areas off the management area. Primary deer
winter areas include the southwest side of the Independence Range from
Taylor Canyon to Marsh Creek, including Jerritt Canyon, the upper
Bruneau River from Rattlesnake Creek to Coon Creek, lower Meadow Creek
and the Bruneau River, and the Owyhee Canyon from Wildhorse Dam to
Mountain City. Areas used during open winters include low elevations
from Willard Creek to Indian Creek, and from Jim Creek to Stump Creek.
The largest wintering herds are in the Bruneau River/Meadow Creek and
Jerritt Canyon/Marsh Creek areas. 86-55

Page IV-51, Paragraph 3

Deer numbers have declined rapidly since 1972. The primary browse
species available in winter are big sagebrush and bitterbrush. A
considerable amount of winter range has been damaged by mineral
exploration activities and fire. Bitterbrush is usually not abundant on
winter ranges that have burned. The range has not shown signs of
overuse by the current deer population. 86-56

Page IV-52, Paragraph 3

The Nevada Department of Wildlife has introduced ruffed grouse. 86-57

RESPONSES

86-52 We agree that this section implies that the wildlife program
consists only of mitigating potentially adverse impacts to
wildlife. This section has been re-written to clarify that the
emphasis of the wildlife program is to improve wildlife habitat
and to mitigate adverse impacts from other resource activities
when necessary.

The Forest currently evaluates the effectiveness of livestock
management and grazing systems in meeting the objectives outlined
in allotment management plans. Livestock stocking levels are
continually being evaluated and numbers are adjusted when
necessary. The wording in this section of the plan has been
changed to reflect on-going efforts to monitor and adjust
livestock use when needed to comply with objectives established
within AMP's.

86-53 The Forest has emphasized direction to manage riparian areas to
provide wildlife habitat, water, and forage. The intent is to
address concerns and resolve conflicts in riparian areas through
current and future planning. To better express this intent this
statement has been revised to state that "the quality of aquatic
habitats will be maintained in at least satisfactory ecological
condition."

86-54 The Forest Service has been mandated to optimize livestock
production to the extent that the inherent productivity of the
land is sustained, and in a manner that is compatible with other
resource uses. It was the intent of this statement to express a
need for continued evaluation of the Forest's grazing program and
adjustment of livestock numbers, either upward or downward, where

necessary to comply with this mandate. The statement has been
revised to more clearly reflect this intent.

86-55 The description of the management area is intended to highlight
the more important wintering areas and not to provide a complete
list. We have modified the description to include areas
highlighted in your comment.

86-56 We agree that bitterbrush and sagebrush are signficant components
of wintering mule deer's diet. We feel that the description for
the Mountain City Management Area reflects this. However, we do
not agree that a considerable amount of winter range has been
damaged by mineral exploration activities and fire.

86-57 Ruffed grouse introductions have been added to this section of the
Plan.

improper use.

We appreciate your suggestion for the Little Island.

86 CONT. COMMENTS

#86

SEP

B.J. Graves
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Page 10

Page IV-52, Paragraph 5

Winter game range is considered fair or better with healthy plant communities consisting of bitterbrush, big sagebrush, early maturing grasses and forbs. Recent rodent girdling and tent caterpillar defoliation has damaged some bitterbrush and serviceberry plants. 86-58

Page IV-64

Under Standards and Guidelines, add that sagebrush control will not be conducted on any important mule deer winter range. 86-59

Page IV-159

"The antelope habitat is in good condition and prescription burning practices appear to be improving the forage." What documentation does the Forest have to support this statement? Sagebrush eradication can be detrimental to pronghorn populations. Perhaps the recent moist spring conditions have been the greatest factor involved in the population increase. 86-60

Page IV-160, Management Prescription, Wildlife and Fish

"Habitat... as fawning and brooding areas." These key areas happen to be, for the most part, the deteriorated riparian areas and the higher sagebrush areas. The Forest does not monitor livestock use on riparian areas and consistently prescribes burning on the sagebrush areas. In either case, key rearing areas are being eliminated. 86-61

Page IV-165, C01

"Design range improvements to meet the needs of wildlife, as well as domestic livestock." This should include fencing of spring sources and meadow areas. 86-62

Page IV-166, C03

"A 100 foot strip... sagebrush control." Why is it necessary to spray to develop more grass? 86-63

Page IV-166, C04

"Revegetation projects... maintain or enhance the area for deer." Does this mean the Forest Service is going to reseed with bitterbrush and sagebrush? Also, what about antelope winter range? 86-64

Page IV-167, D01, (S)

Condition and trend studies should include a transect on the riparian to accurately assess utilization on the allotment. 86-65

RESPONSES

86-58 We agree that rodents and tent caterpillars have had an impact on bitterbrush and serviceberry. The description has been changed to include this information.

86-59 Vegetative manipulation, including sagebrush control, is an important tool in enhancing vegetative communities to meet specific management objectives. Vegetative manipulation will be conducted on mule deer winter range when it will improve these areas for wintering deer.

86-60 A study completed by Forest personnel is on file in the Humboldt Forest Supervisor's Office which deals with the impacts of burning and habitat diversity. We would not dispute that the recent moist spring has been a help in improving conditions but we do not feel it is the only factor. Vegetative manipulation projects and improved management systems were probably a bigger factor.

We agree that sagebrush eradication can be detrimental to pronghorn. However, lack of sagebrush management can also be detrimental. Pronghorn require different densities of sagebrush during different times of the year. A well-designed sagebrush management program can provide diversity within the sagebrush communities to meet pronghorn's varying needs.

86-61 We disagree with your statement that the Forest does not monitor livestock use in riparian areas. Monitoring plans are designed for each allotment management plan to insure the specific objectives are being met. The Forest Plan provides direction for increased emphasis on mangement and improvement of riparian areas.

86-62 The Plan has been revised to include a section of Forest-wide standards and guidelines. One guideline in the Draft and Final Plan directs the Forest to "Protect wet areas around springs for wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, and recreation opportunities." Fencing of spring sources and meadow areas will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

86-63 Buffer strips are designed to protect wildlife habitat within meadows and aspen groves when vegetative manipulation is accomplished. The configuration of buffer strips will be designed by an I.D. Team. The buffer strip provides transition zones which are important to wildlife.

It is not necessary to spray to develop more grass.

86-64 It is possible that bitterbrush and sagebrush could be planted in an area. The specific purpose of this guideline is to prevent a loss of key deer winter range. As far as we know no antelope winter range has been identified on the Forest.

86-65 The Forest Plan provides direction to manage and monitor riparian areas:

> "Existing Plans will be updated to provide for proper riparian area management."
>
> "Each new or updated allotment plan will contain specific monitoring standards developed with an interdisciplinary team."

Monitoring action plans are designed to insure that specific objectives including riparian management objectives are being met.

86 CONT. COMMENTS

SEP 24 1985

#86

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Page 11

Page IV-176, F03, (G)

"Protect wet areas around springs... opportunities." Wet areas are very sensitive to livestock grazing. All wet areas should be monitored and as degraded areas are identified, should be fenced until healed. 86-66

Page IV-183, J18

A public easement should be gained to Robinson Hole and Draw Creek. 86-67

Page IV-185, man-caused fires

Individuals responsible for man-caused rangeland fires should be cited with a substantial monetary fine as well as funding the cost of suppression. 86-68

Page IV-205

Populations of hunted MIS are managed by the Nevada Department of Wildlife and will be managed according to Department policies and procedures, Commission regulations, and Nevada state law, rather than "current levels." The statement that hunted MIS will be managed at current levels is made under Management Prescription - Wildlife and Fish for all management areas and should probably state that habitat will be maintained for current population levels of hunted MIS. 86-69

Page IV-269

The statement "... recommend big game levels on critical winter ranges to recommended levels" needs clarification. Is the USFS going to take over wildlife population management from NDOW or should it state that they will monitor big game use and report range damage or problems to NDOW for joint interagency review and recommendations? 86-70

Page IV-273

It could be valuable for wildlife and useful for range management if vacant or nonuse allotments could be held in reserve to defer grazing from areas that are in need of improvement. If all grazing allotments are in good condition, then it could be acceptable to allow use by other permittees in vacant allotments over and above current permitted use. 86-71

Page IV-274

Treatment of range pests by APHIS should not be requested in sage grouse strutting areas, nesting areas, or brooding areas until mid to late July. 86-72

RESPONSES

86-66 **Please refer to response numbers 86-43 and 86-62.**

86-67 **Robinson Hole and Draw Creek are on the Forest list of easements needed. However, they are so low on the priority list, it is doubtful these easements will be obtained during this planning period.**

86-68 **As part of the Forest's law enforcement program, all man-caused fires are investigated. The Forest Service evaluates each case and makes recommendations regarding recovery of suppression costs and/or pursuing criminal action. The final decision is made in a court of law.**

86-69 **You are correct with your statement that the Forest manages habitat not populations. These statements are rewritten in the Final Plan.**

86-70 **We agree that the statement was poorly written. It is revised in the Final Plan. Our intent is to monitor big game use and work with NDOW to maintain deer numbers commensurate with habitat potential.**

86-71 **Your suggestion is a standard procedure on the Forest and the standards and guidelines reflect this.**

86-72 **Treatment of rangeland pests is evaluated in an environmental analysis. This analysis evaluates the need for treatment, methods to be used, and the timing of treatment. Site specific management constraints are outlined in the environmental analysis. We consult with interested publics as a part of the environmental analysis process.**

86 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

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11 86

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Page 12

COMMENTS			RESPONSES
Page IV-278 Nevada state law prohibits camping within 100 yards (300 feet) of springs or in such a manner that wildlife and livestock are inhibited.	86-73	86-73	The standard mentioned in your comment exceeds the requirements of the state law and remains unchanged.
Page IV-279 Sales of aspen for poles are not recommended in the Schell management areas since aspen stands are not extensive or excessive in that area and are considered important wildlife habitat.	86-74	86-74	The following statement has been incorporated as a Forest-wide standard. "Post and pole sales are allowed only in areas where sufficient wood is available to meet all resource needs."
How will mature aspen stands be managed to increase regeneration? Since most stands receive heavy livestock use, it is recommended that any proposed treatment include rest from livestock grazing until young age-class aspen is well represented at a height that protects these young age-class trees from damage and loss from livestock grazing.	86-75	86-75	Aspen regeneration projects will be conducted on a site-specific basis. The need for protecting new aspen suckers will be evaluated for each site.
Page IV-290 The USFS proposes to purchase $10,000 worth of land per year in the Schell Management Area. This could prove to be quite beneficial for wildlife by facilitating improved range management in the south end of Duck Creek basin, in the Steptoe and Cave Creek drainages, and in the Cooper Canyon drainage where management is being negatively impacted because of unfenced private landholdings in key habitats.	86-76	86-76	We appreciate your support of our intent to acquire additional land when possible.
Page IV-308 Maintaining the Murphy Wash chaining is probably not considered a high priority for use of wildlife dollars based on the lack of deer use observed in this chaining during helicopter surveys conducted since 1980.	86-77	86-77	The Murphy Wash chaining was designed as a project to enhance wildlife habitat. Maintenance of this chaining primarily involves removal of "whips". This work can be accomplished through the use of Honor Camp crews for minimal cost. Our surveys indicate that the Murphy Wash chaining receives moderate to high levels of mule deer use.
Page IV 317 Protecting an area such as Strawberry Creek from pinyon removal may not be in the best interest of wildlife, especially mule deer. The current mule deer herd in the South Snake Range is well below potential levels and treatment of pinyon may actually be beneficial to the deer herd by increasing available forage. Overall, pinenut picking opportunities are ample in White Pine County.	86-78	86-78	The Lexington and Strawberry Creek areas are among the better pinenut producers. We feel they merit special consideration. We have not closed these areas to pinyon removal, only to excessive removal.
Page IV-320 Again the sale of aspen for poles is not recommended in the South Snake Range since aspen is quite limited and important to wildlife.	86-79	86-79	Please refer to response number 86-74 and 86-75.
Pages IV-375 and 431 Aspen pole sales are not recommended for the White Pine Management Area for reasons listed above.	86-80	86-80	Please refer to response numbers 86-74 and 86-75.

SEP 24 1985

11·86

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Page IV-514

What does push, pile, and reseed mean under meadow improvement? We have some doubts that this is an accepted meadow improvement procedure.

We would need project detail before we could say a burn would improve wildlife habitat.

It is our opinion that wildlife guzzlers, waterfowl ponds, waterfowl nesting platforms, and waterfowl feed plantings are very low priority wildlife projects in the Mountain City District. 86-81

Page IV-515

Two habitat improvement projects of thinning by wood cutting are proposed. What type of wood? Aspen? Pinyon-juniper? Why would these be wildlife projects? None of the other woodland projects actions (page IV-526) are identified as wildlife projects, although most will probably benefit wildlife. We are not critical of pinyon-juniper thinning on deer winter ranges, since there should be substantially more of it proposed in this plan, just curious as whether the two projects are special. 86-82

Eight hundred fifty acres of burning during the next ten years are proposed on the Jarbidge for wildlife. What species are they benefitting? Considering the substantial type conversions that have already been accomplished there, this seems unreasonable. 86-83

Why do only the Mountain City, Ruby Mountains, East Humboldt and Jarbidge have wildlife projects identified that can be considered big game projects? With highly productive deer areas occurring in the Schell, Ward Mountain, and White Pine units, why aren't there projects for these areas? 86-84

There are nearly 13,000 acres of brush spraying proposed on pages IV-517, IV-516, IV-520, IV-522, and IV-524. This may not be excessive except that 2,990 acres are proposed in the Jarbidge where its need is of questionable value for livestock and probably deleterious for big game, and another 5,900 acres is proposed in the Santa Rosas where some of the worst looking intentional burns for wildlife and livestock in Nevada have already occurred. Almost 70 percent of the spraying is proposed in these two units. Also in the Jarbidge and the Santa Rosas, totals of 2,300 acres and 2,200 acres respectively are proposed for prescribed burning for livestock. Coupled with the sprays, we believe that level of treatment to be unjustified. 86-85

Wilderness

NDOW supports the preferred alternative for wilderness on the Humboldt Forest. We would like to suggest that the Little Island 86-86

86-81 The Wildlife Habitat Improvement Activity Schedule for the Mountain City Management Area has been revised. This activity schedule was developed in cooperation with NDOW. Specific meadow improvement projects have not been identified although an inventory of the condition of meadow areas important to sage grouse is listed as a project.

86-82 The wood cutting projects are scheduled in pinyon-juniper stands on the East Humboldt and Ruby Mountain areas. The purpose is to prevent loss of wildlife habitat, provide fuel breaks, and control fuelwood cutting. We intend to work in the live stands with Honor Camp crews and firewood gatherers on a planned basis.

86-83 Please refer to response number 86-42.

86-84 The Schell, Ward Mountain, and White Pine units' activity schedules were inadvertently left out in the printing. These have been added in the Final Forest Plan.

86-85 The acreage mentioned for spraying and burning projects is merely proposed. Preliminary planning indicates these proposed acreages could be treated. Documents to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will be prepared for all proposals to determine environmental impacts, economic feasibility, and public concerns. NDOW has requested and is invited to participate in this process. An interdisciplinary team evaluates all such proposals.

86-86 We appreciate your support for the wilderness recommendation within the Preferred Alternative. The Forest Plan provides management direction and standards and guidelines which direct the Forest Service to protect wilderness areas from unauthorized or improper use.

We appreciate your suggestion for the Little Island.

86 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

#86

B.J. Graves
September 23, 1985
Page 14

wilderness boundary be fenced to prevent vehicles from driving through a corner of the wilderness. 86-86

If we can provide additional input or further clarify these comments, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Willie

William A. Molini
Director

cc: Board of Wildlife Commissioners
Regions
Divisions

See response 86-86 above.

#87

SEP 24 1985

SEP 24 '85

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
1100 Valley Road
P.O. Box 10678
Reno, Nevada 89520-0022
(702) 789-0500

RICHARD H. BRYAN
Governor

WILLIAM A. MOLINI
Director

September 16, 1985

Mr. B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
United States Forest Service
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89001

Dear Bob:

Recent discussions with Paul Demeule, Wayne Swenson and Mike Lawrence of the Humboldt Forest staff and our Region III staff has resulted in a proposal to designate a portion of forest land in the Grant Range of Nye County as a Desert Bighorn Sheep Management Area. Such a designation would allow for the management of the area for wildlife with special emphasis given to the desert bighorn sheep (Ovis canadensis nelsoni). This species, as you well know, is the state animal of Nevada and has been a species of high interest for many years. This interest has led to the creation of the Desert Game Range by the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Highland Range Bighorn Habitat Area by the Bureau of Land Management, and, special management by the National Park Service. 87-1

The area of discussion is the Troy Peak portion of the Grant Range from Cherry Creek Summit road north to Timber Mountain. The area contains an existing herd of approximately 75 desert bighorn sheep and also is inhabited by a substantial population of mule deer plus a variety of other wildlife species typical of the Great Basin Biome.

Cooperative efforts between various agencies, Forest Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife and BLM, have pointed out habitat protection and enhancement needs which currently exist in the Grant/Quinn Canyon Range:

87-1 Once the area's value for big horn sheep has been defined and the need established, the Forest will consider establishing a special management area. The area most likely will overlap portions of the Quinn Management Area.

SEP 24 [illegible]

#87

Mr. B. J. Graves -2- September 16, 1985

1. Livestock grazing on the mentioned areas is excessive to a point of near 100% utilization in some areas. Admittedly, much of this problem is from drift from adjacent BLM lands due to a lack of adequate fencing.

2. Water, while sufficient in many areas, is lacking in portions of the Grant Range. Perhaps systems of water devices (guzzlers) for wildlife and development of springs and seeps could be undertaken.

3. The protection of bighorn sheep wintering areas is crucial. Areas such as lower Irwin and Troy Canyons plus Little Meadows should receive as much protection as possible.

4. The continuing encroachment upon wildlife habitat by pinyon/juniper has been pointed out many times. A system of vegetal manipulation by prescribed burning, greenwood cutting or a "let burn" policy could enhance the habitat for many species, i.e. mule deer.

As a result of addressing the needs of the bighorn sheep in the area, perhaps studies could be initiated to determine movement, lambing areas, biotic potential, etc. These studies could be a part of a program for post-graduate work at one of the many universities in close proximity to the area. It is realized that it is late in the planning effort to propose the designation; but, hopefully, it is not too late to begin the process of feasibility and addressing the problems identified in this portion of Nevada.

Sincerely,

Willie

WILLIAM A. MOLINI, DIRECTOR

cc: Region III Supervisor
Game Division
Habitat Section

SEP 25 1985

A. GRANT GERBER
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR
1680 LAMOILLE ROAD
ELKO, NEVADA 89801

Telephone
Area Code 702
738-9258

#88

September 18, 1985

Mr. Graves
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Re: WILDERNESS

Dear Mr. Graves:

Along with this letter we are delivering approximately 1800 copies of a letter addressed to Congressman Reid. Most of the letters were procured at the booth we had set up on Wilderness at the Elko County Fair. In the presentation we made before the letters were signed, we pointed out on a map the present Jarbidge Wilderness; then we explained about the addition to the Jarbidge Wilderness and the other proposed areas to be put into Wilderness by the Laxalt, Hecht, Vucanovich Bill (a copy of which I am enclosing for your review); we then explained the expected proposal by Congressman Seiberling and specifically pointed out the area we expected his bill to cover in the Rubies; and finally, we explained that a copy of each letter would be sent to the Forest Service and that they could expect a response from the Forest Service regarding the comment they had made. 88-1

It was our experience at the booth that over ninety-five percent of the people that came by signed the letter expressing support for the Laxalt, Hecht, Vucanovich Bill and specifically opposing any other areas being designated Wilderness. Two or three percent of the people either said they were not interested or took a copy to study and sign at home. Only about one percent were in favor of more land being designated Wilderness than is proposed by the Laxalt, Hecht, Vucanovich Bill. Approximately forty percent of the people expressed the opinion that they were opposed to even as much Wilderness as proposed by the Laxalt, Hecht, Vucanovich Bill, but would sign as a compromise to help keep more land from being designated Wilderness. The people stopping at the booth 88-1

88-1 We acknowledge receiving these letters addressed to Congressman Reid commenting on wilderness legislation. After analyzing all public comments and reviewing data we are recommending 268,000 acres for wilderness classification in Mount Moriah, Bristlecone (Wheeler Peak), Ruby Mountains, Grant Range, Jarbidge Addition, East Humboldt, and Soldier Lakes areas.

SEP 25 1985

#88

Reasons to Support the Laxalt, Hecht, Vucanovich Bill

In the event a bill on Wilderness is not passed all the lands that the Forest Service and the B.L.M. have locked up in Wilderness Study Areas will remain locked up.

The hard line Wilderness advocates are proposing in excess of an additional four million acres of Wilderness in Nevada. Senators Laxalt's and Hecht's and Representive Vucanovich's Bill proposes an additional 136,900 acres to be added as Wilderness for a total of 201,567 acres in Nevada.

The Wilderness proposal by Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Representative Vucanovich adds the following acreage:

Mount Charleston	32,000 acres
Jarbidge Addition (The present Wilderness comprises 64,667 acres)	23,000 acres
Mount Moriah	73,000 acres
Boundary Peak	8,900 acres
	136,900 acres

The designation "Wilderness" puts the land in a single use category - hiking only - and absolutely prohibits mining, heli-skiing, snowmobiling, etc. and will severely curtail and eventually eliminate livestock grazing. Secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel said that grazing is being eliminated in other Wilderness areas and Nevadans can expect grazing to be eliminated in Wilderness areas in Nevada.

Water rights will be adversely impacted by land being designated Wilderness.

The Nevada economy will be adversely impacted by land being designated Wilderness because of reductions in ranching, mining and recreation.

Wilderness designation discriminates against the elderly. Only the physically fit with significant leisure time to hike will be able to enjoy Wilderness lands.

The multiple use of Nevada lands has been successful for many years and should be continued.

SEP 25 1985

#88

Page 2.
September 18, 1985
Re: WILDERNESS

represented a cross section of Westerners with a smattering of people from Ohio, Texas, etc. and the percentages of people from all areas falling into the above percentages stayed about the same.

Very truly yours,

A. GRANT GERBER

AGG:js

cc: The Honorable Paul Laxalt
The Honorable Chic Hecht
The Honorable Barbara Vucanovich
The Honorable Harry Reid

89 COMMENTS

SEP 25 1985

#89
9/20/85

R.J. Strave, Supervisor
Humboldt Nat'l Forest
976 Mountain City Hwy.
Elko, Nv. 89801

Sir:

I strongly urge the greatest possible protection for the acreage identified, with prime wilderness character, in the Humboldt Nat'l. Forest.

I have strong interest, & years of enjoyment, in Noble Canyon (Carson-Iceberg), the Walker Additions (Hoover), plus the wonderful Sweetwater range.

I recommend wilderness

RESPONSES

89-1 **No response necessary.**

SEP 25 1985

#89

designation for these lands.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Joe A. Hawkins
5324 Valparaiso Cir.
Sacramento CA 95841

90 COMMENTS

#90

Dear Sir, SEP 25 1985 #90

I write to support your current forest planning efforts and adoption of most of your standards and guidelines for overall multiple use land management. I strongly urge you to increase your wilderness and designation of primitive areas, however, to give lasting protection to more of your land with premium wilderness values. |90-1

Particularly beautiful, yet fragile areas are in the Ruby mountains, Wheeler Peak, Jarbidge additions, and the Schell Range. This is to be the final opportunity for designation of much of this land. Nevada has so much open land that a representative portion should receive wilderness status, as well as other primitive status, RNA designation, etc. |90-2 thru 90-5

Respectfully,

RESPONSES

90-1	We appreciate your support for the Forest standards and guidelines.
90-2	Please refer to response number 8-4.
90-3	Please refer to response number 8-1.
90-4	Please refer to response number 8-5.
90-5	Please refer to response number 61-7.

SEP 25

#91

Nevada
Wool Growers
Association

1100 E. 15TH ELY, NEVADA 89301

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Sept. 23, 1985

Mr. B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nev. 89801

RE: Humboldt National Forest - proposed management plan

Dear Mr. Graves,

My comments on the proposed management plan are:

1) In each of the alternatives of the Forest plan, AUM reduction is scheduled for several years. We oppose any AUM reduction. Sufficient reduction of AUMs has occurred in past years. By appropriate range management, AUMs can be increased in coming years from the current level without reduction. 91-1

2) We support only the area recommended for wilderness designation by Senators Laxalt and Hecht, and by Congressman Vucanovich. We oppose any other Nevada land being designated wilderness. 91-2

3) We support only restricted riparian areas that are established by approval of the affected permittees. Fencing of riparian areas would create problems for the distribution and grazing of livestock. Fence construction and maintainance is cost prohibitive. 91-3

4) We support exchanges of private and public land by decreasing red tape and excessive studies. Land exchanges could be accomplished in a much shorter time period and at less cost to the private land owner and the Government. 91-4

5) We support Nevada State control of State water rights. We oppose water rights being usurped by the Federal Government. 91-5

91-1 The Forest Service has been mandated to optimize livestock production to the extent that the inherent productivity of the land is sustained in a manner that is compatible with other resource uses. The Forest Service continually evaluates grazing allotments and adjusts livestock numbers either up or down to bring stocking rates in concert with carrying capacity.

On certain allotments, reductions in stocking are needed. We except that increases in AUM's will be made on many of these allotments as range condition improves.

91-2 The preferred alternative represents a particular management strategy necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives identified within the Forest Plan. Wilderness recommendations are one part of the Preferred Alternative. Wilderness recommendations were based on the quality, suitability, public and environmental needs, and compatibility of the areas with the overall management scheme for the Preferred Alternative.

91-3 Riparian areas provide water and forage for wildlife and livestock. The Forest Plan provides guidance which states, "Fencing as a management tool to totally exclude livestock will be utilized only when no other alternatives are practical".

Any fencing of riparian areas will be addressed in Allotment Management Plans which are formulated in cooperation with the livestock permittees.

91-4 We agree that the land exchange process is time consuming. However, an exchange of publicly-owned land is a significant commitment of resources. A thorough evaluation of the lands to be exchanged is necessary to insure that the public's needs are met.

91 CONT. COMMENTS

SEP 25 1985

#91

6) The plan indicates approximately 53% of the range is unsuitable for livestock grazing. Range suitability for livestock grazing should be determined by cattle and sheep as they are willing to graze an area. Practical experience has also shown that water and forage availability determines range suitability for livestock. 91-6

7) Wild horse numbers need to be held at the 1971 level or lower. 91-7

8) Right of way access should be obtained only by approval of the land owner involved. The requirements of the land owner need to be properly considered and accomodated. 91-8

9) Predator control needs to be adequate to keep livestock and wildlife losses at a minimum. 91-9

10) We suggest you put more emphasis on using livestock grazing as a tool for range management. It should have first priority. These range areas cannot be properly managed without the use of livestock. 91-10

11) Permittees should be included in any planning or proposed changes in their grazing area. 91-11

Sincerely,

Von L Sorensen
Von L. Sorensen
President

RESPONSES

91-5 The Forest Service has stated that they will comply with the State law regarding acquisition of water rights. Forest-wide management direction re-emphasizes this policy. The Forest Service feels that Federally held water rights are essential to provide for public use such as livestock grazing, recreation, etc. of National Forest System lands.

91-6 We agree that livestock willingness to use an area is an indication of suitability. However, there are several other factors that must be considered in determining suitability: slope, soil stability, forage availability, and kind and class of livestock.

91-7 Legislation directing management of wild horses specifies that wild horses shall be confined to territories established in 1971 and that population levels will be determined by considering the animals' forage and habitat requirements, wildlife, permitted livestock, and other uses in the area.

91-8 It is our goal to work closely with private land owners when obtaining right-of-way access. Condemnation is used only to acquire access when conflicts cannot be resolved through negotiation with the landowner and where access is essential for proper management and public needs.

91-9 Predator control is the responsibility of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The Forest Service supports predator control by making recommendations for each allotment on the need for control, methods to be used, special precautions needed, and by evaluating the environmental effects of proposed predator control.

91-10 The Forest Service manages National Forest System Lands under the multiple use concept. We agree that proper livestock grazing is an important part of multiple use.

91-11 The Forest Service cooperates with the livestock permittees in the development of allotment management plans. We consult with interested publics on all decisions relative to the management of the National Forest.

SEP 25 1985

# 92

Sept. 21, 1985

To B.J. Graves,

I have noticed in the last 5 years more and more people coming to remote areas in Nevada (such as where I live) to get away from it all. There is plenty of acreage for multiple use - BLM, mining, ORV travel, but very little land designated as wilderness and preserved "as is". If we don't act now roads and resource development will be the rule for all govt. land in Nevada. I support wilderness preservation, particularly for the Santa Rosa Mts. They are close to where I live (sort of) and have significant beauty to warrant protection. Thankyou for your consideration. 92-1

Sincerely,

Mary Bogard

Mary Bogard
P.O. Box 4
8100 Hwy 81
Gerlach, NV 89412

92-1 Please refer to response number 8-12.

93 COMMENTS

SEP 25 1985

#93

George A. Bridges
3124 Brophy Drive
Sacramento, CA 95821

September 21, 1985

Mr B. J. Graves,
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Sir:

We are writing in regard to the forest management plan now being drawn up for the Humboldt National Forest.

Space does not permit the listing of the many recreational and wildlife values for each of the twelve areas which we feel need your support to maintain these values for the future. As you are aware, the Humboldt National Forest is a vast, diverse and dramatic national forest, and we will only mention that we feel that "Standards and Guidlines" for special protection of the Bristlecone Pine should be supported for Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone) in White Pine County. 93-1

Since the plan fails to recommend vast areas of roadless acreage for consideration as wilderness, we oppose the reconstruction of roads in or near roadless areas, and hope that the Forest Service will reconsider this facet of a very complex picture. 93-2

We wish to list Santa Rosa, East Humboldt, South Schell, and especially Ruby Mountains, Mount Moriah, and Currant Mountain (Duckwater) in Nye - White Pine Counties because we have long been familiar personally with these areas and with people living there or in adjacent Elko and Lincoln Counties. 93-3 thru 93-8

We must also add for the record Elk Mountain area west of Jackpot from personal knowledge and urge that 12,500 acres be recommended here. 93-9

While commending the Forest Service for past work done, we wish to add for completeness Jarbidge Additions, Pearl Peak, Grant Range, and Quinn Canyon Range : for the last two south of US 6 we recommend 60,000 and 95,000 acres. 93-10 thru 93-13

Sincerely,

George A. Bridges
George A. Bridges

RESPONSES

93-1 Please refer to response number 14-4.

93-2 Please refer to response number 14-3.

93-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

93-4 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

93-5 Please refer to response number 61-7.

93-6 Please refer to response number 8-4.

93-7 Please refer to response number 8-2.

93-8 Please refer to response number 8-3.

93-9 Please refer to response number 8-11.

93-10 Please refer to response number 8-5.

93-11 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

93-12 Please refer to response number 14-11.

93-13 Please refer to response number 8-7.

94 COMMENTS

SEP 25 1985

#94

2357 Harrison Avenue
Eureka, California 95501
September 21, 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves,

I am writing to urge you to support wilderness designation for the following roadless areas in Humboldt National Forest: Wheeler Peak, including Highland Ridge; Quinn Canyon Range; Grant Range with expansion to better protect the sheep; Currant Mountain; Mount Moriah, including the southeast roadless portion; Ruby Mountains, including the northern portion of the range; East Humboldt, including direct purchase of the Acker Basin land; South Schell; Pearl Peak; Santa Rosa, with attention to protection of the birds of prey; Jarbridge Additions, including Camp Creek; Elk Mountain. 94-1 thru 94-12

The forest planning process is vital to the preservation of America's greatest treasure- her wildlands. I sincerely hope that you will carefully consider my comments and those of others who believe that short-term economic concerns can exploit the land and jeopardize our future in a fundamental way.

I would appreciate some information of backpacking in the Humboldt National Forest. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Joseph Hunkins

RESPONSES

94-1 Please refer to response number 8-1.

94-2 Please refer to response number 8-1.

94-3 Please refer to response number 8-7.

94-5 Please refer to response number 8-3.

94-6 Please refer to response number 8-2.

94-7 Please refer to response number 8-4.

94-8 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

94-9 Please refer to response number 61-7.

94-10 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

94-11 Please refer to response number 8-12.

94-12 Please refer to response number 8-5.

95 SEP 25 1985

COMMENTS

#95

PO Box 163
Taylorsville, CA 95983
Spetember 18, 1985

B.J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

I am writing to comment on your forest planning efforts and to let you know that for ten years I have traveled extensively in many of the different areas of your widely scattered National Forest lands. Three or four times a year my husband and I spent anywhere from one week to a month of more traveling and exploring the backcountry areas of Nevada. We have hiked and traveled widely in and around the Ruby Mountains Range. Also Wheeler Peak, Currant Mountain, Jarbidge and Elk Mountain, as well as other areas in your planning area.

I urge you to designate and protect MAXIMUM wilderness in these many areas. Specifically, include Camp Creek and the western St. Mary's River area for a total of 54,000 acres to the Jarbidge Additions; 12,500 acres for Elk Mountain; enlarge the Ruby Mountains proposal to include the northern portion of the range for a total of 150,000 acres (we think this area is extremely unusual and outstanding); and the East Humboldt in the northern Rubies should have the Acker Basin added and 30,000 acres protected. The Pearl Peak area south of Harrison Pass has been the subject of many of our slides and pictures (I am an artist who does Nevada landscapes and have sold them in California, Nevada and Montana) -- the boundary for this area should be extended to the southeast for a total of 23,000 acres. 95-1 thru 95-5

Near Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone), I urge you to include the Highland Ridge area and designate 120,000 acres in your proposal, including the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake. The first time I visited this area was 1978, and since then, it has been a goal for many of our trip-planning sessions 95-6

The Grant Range and Quinn Canyon Range should be expanded to include 60,000 acres plus the 95,000 acres recommended for wilderness in RARE II (Quinn). 95-7 95-8

Standards and Guidelines for special protection of the Birstlecone Pine should be supported 95-9 and any construction or reconstruction of roads in or near roadless areas should be stopped. 95-10. My husband and I feel that the Nevada landscapes are the most beautiful we have ever seen....friends that we travel with and introduce to the areas agree with us. Sometimes we have a caravan of three or four vehicles traveling out to your Forest to explore, recreate, hike, draw, and enjoy. The land there exhilerates us. We ~~xapdx~~ spend time traveling on backroads in our vehicles, but our most prized experiences are when we are up in the backcountry....away from developments, mines, and the internal combusion engine.

I agree with Aldo Leopold when he said, "We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." He was a fine example of the highest ideals that the Forest Service can produce. Protection of the above-mentioned areas will do more for the future of Nevada than short-term

RESPONSES

95-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

95-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

95-3 Please refer to response number 8-4.

95-4 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

95-5 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

95-6 Please refer to response number 8-1.

95-7 Please refer to response number 14-11.

95-8 Please refer to response number 8-7.

95-9 Please refer to response number 14-4.

95-10 Please refer to response number 14-3.

95 CONT. COMMENTS

SEP 25 1985

#95

resource development and extraction. I urge you to designate maximum wilderness on your National Forest.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your forest planning.

Sincerely yours,

Sally Yost

Sally Yost

P.S. There are so many outstanding areas in your Forest, that I forgot to mention two other important ones:
I urge protection & wilderness status for the Current Mountain (Duckwater) area (49,000 acres), and please expand the Grant Range boundaries to include 60,000 acres. Also, maximum protection for Mount Moriah and South Schell (98,000 and 120,000 acres, respectively). 95-11 thru 95-13

RESPONSES

95-11 Please refer to response number 8-3.

95-12 Please refer to response number 8-2.

95-13 Please refer to response number 61-7.

96 **COMMENTS** **RESPONSES**

SEP 25 1985

Gordon and Christine Cohen
195 Ridgeview Dr.
Petaluma, CA 94952
9-21-85

#96

Dear Supervisor Graves:

As two people very much concerned about environmental issues and the preservation of wild-life, we support and strongly urge the following:

1. The inclusion of Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and the country west of St. Mary's River for a total of about 54,000 acres to the Humboldt National Forest. This area would add mountain slopes and the drainages of Fox, Pine, and Cottonwood Creeks to this wilderness area. | 96-1
2. Wilderness protection to Elk Mountain (12,500 acres) because of its great beauty and rich habitat. | 96-2
3. The protection of the Santa Rosa mountains which contain the headwaters of both the Quinn and Little Humboldt Rivers, where large raptor populations exist, along with bountiful fish populations | 96-3

96-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

96-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

96-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

96 CONT.
SEP 25 1985

COMMENTS

#96

4. Enlarge the very beautiful northeast Ruby Mountains which has dozens of lakes and the 11,300 ft Hole-in-the-Mountain Peak. | 96-4

5. Extension of the boundaries of the Pearl Peak area (containing stands of Bristlecone Pine and extensive wildlife) to the southeast for a total of 23,000 acres. | 96-5

6. designation as wilderness area for the Schell Creek Range, magnificant as a wilderness and recreational resource! | 96-6

7. Expansion of Mt Moriah to include the southeast portion of the roadless area (98,000 acres). This is a fabulous wild area with wonderful streams abounding in trout. | 96-7

8. Inclusion of the Highland Ridge with its 120,000 acres and the area where the old road from the upper campground goes to Johnson Lake. | 96-8

9. Wilderness protection of 49,000 acres of the remote Currant Mountain where big horn sheep and mule deer live. | 96-9

RESPONSES

96-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

96-5 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

96-6 Please refer to response number 61-7.

96-7 Please refer to response number 8-2.

96-8 Please refer to response number 8-1.

96-9 Please refer to response number 8-3.

96 CONT. COMMENTS

SEP 25 1985

#96

10. Expansion of the Grant Range to include 60,000 acres to provide greater protection for the sheep population along with protecting over 200 species of wildflowers and a dozen different tree species 96-10

11. Wilderness protection designation of 95,000 acres of the Quinn Canyon Range (already recommended by the Forest Service in RARE II). 96-11

We feel these areas bring tremendous value to the Humboldt National Forest and must be saved!

We also urge special protection of the Bristlecone Pine and 96-12 strongly oppose the construction or 96-13 reconstruction of roads in or near roadless areas.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Concerned American Citizens,

Christine and Gordon Cohen

RESPONSES

96-10 Please refer to response number 14-11.

96-11 Please refer to response number 8-7.

96-12 Please refer to response number 14-4.

96-13 Please refer to response number 14-3.

SEP 25 1985

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor #97
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV. 89801

Loomis, Ca. 9·23·85

Dear Supervisor

I am writing to urge wilderness protection of the following areas, several of which I have visited. I would also like to emphasize the recreational and wildlife values of the Humboldt National forest and my desire to protect boath diminishing roadless acreage and Bristlecone Pine forest habitat. 97-1

Jarbidge area: please increase your wilderness recommendation to include camp creek, the headwaters of Canyon creek, and the country west of St. Mary's River for a total of some 54,000 acres. 97-2

Elk Mountain: please recommend 12,500 acres in this area for wilderness protection. 97-3

Santa Rosa Mt. Area: please recommend some 80,000 acres around the headwaters of boath the Quinn and Little Humboldt Rivers. 97-4

97-1 Please refer to response number 14-4.

97-2 Please refer to response number 8-5.

97-3 Please refer to response number 8-11.

97-4 Please refer to response number 8-12.

97 CONT. COMMENTS

-2-

[illegible] 25 1985

#97

97-5 Ruby Mt. Area: please enlarge your proposal for this classic alpine wilderness to include the northern portion of the range for a total of 150,000 acres of wilderness.

97-6 East Humboldt Area: please acquire by direct purchase private land in Acker Basin and recommend it along with the area around Hole-in-the-Mountain Peak for a total of 30,000 acres of wilderness protection.

97-7 Pearl Peak area: please extend the boundary southeast of Pearl Peak for a total of 23,000 acres.

97-8 South Schell Range Area: please recommend 120,000 acres of this magnificent above treeline area including Schell Peak for wilderness designation.

97-9 Mount Moriah Area: please expand your proposal to include the southeast portion of this roadless area for a total of 98,000 acres

97-10 Wheeler Peak Area: please include the Highland Ridge area and the old road from the upper campground to

RESPONSES

97-5 Please refer to response number 8-4.

97-6 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

97-7 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

97-8 Please refer to response number 61-7.

97-9 Please refer to response number 8-2.

97-10 Please refer to response number 8-1.

SEP 25 1985

-3-

#97

Johnson Lake for a sum of 120,000 acres of protected wilderness

Currant Mountain Area: please protect this southern part of the White Pine Range with its Bristlecone Pines and populations of Bighorn sheep and Mule deer by recommending 49,000 acres for wilderness designation.

Grant Range Area: please expand the boundaries of this scenic & limestone range to 60,000 acres to provide greater protection to the Bighorn sheep population.

Quinn Canyon Range: please recommend this extension of the Grant Range, 95,000 acres, be placed under Wilderness protection.

Sincerely

Miles A. Pepper
8020 Morningside Dr.
Loomis, Ca. 95650

97-11 97-11 Please refer to response number 8-3.

97-12 97-12 Please refer to response number 14-11.

97-13 97-13 Please refer to response number 8-7.

98 COMMENTS

SEP 25 1985

# 98

5/27/85

Dear Mr. Greeve:

Thank you for your efforts in the management and preservation of Humboldt National Forest. Anything you can do to preserve and expand the wilderness areas in your jurisdiction would be greatly appreciated. 98-1

Sincerely
Barry + Jan Jones
Box 6332
Tahoe City, CA
95730

RESPONSES

98-1 Please refer to response number 14-1.

SEP 25 1985

#99

Jessie R. Springborn
801 N. Central Avenue
Stockton, California 95204

September 22, 1985

Dear Supervisor Graves,

I am writing in regard to changes being suggested or needing to be suggested for the Humboldt National Forest. As a person concerned with our environment, I feel the need to express my opinions to you.

The following areas should be increased and/or included in the wilderness designation: Jarbidge, Elk Mountain, Santa Rosa Mountains, Ruby Mountains, East Humboldt, Pearl

99-1
thru
99-8

99-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

99-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

99-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

99-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

99-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

99-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

99-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

99-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

99-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

99-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

99-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

99-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

99-13 Please refer to response number 14-3.

99-14 Please refer to response number 14-4.

99 CONT. COMMENTS		RESPONSES
Peak, South Schell, Mount Moriah, Wheeler Peak, Currant Mountain, Grant Range and the Quinn Canyon Range.	99-7 thru 99-12	See responses 99-7 thru 12 above.
Please keep these areas wilderness areas and oppose roads in or near them.	99-13	See response 99-13 above.
Also, please support the standards and guidelines for the special protection of the Bristlecone Pine.	99-14	See response 99-14 above.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,
Jessie R. [illegible]

SEP 25 1985

#100

Nevada Discovery Tours

September 21, 1985

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Supervisor Graves,

With this letter I wish to recognize your wilderness proposals in the proposed Humboldt Forest Management Plan as a good beginning, but urge you to seriously consider adding additional wilderness acreages and areas in the Final Plan. I personally support the recommendations of the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society and the California Wilderness Coalition including the proposed "Standards and Guidelines" for special protection of the Bristlecone Pine. |100-1 |100-2

Through my company, Nevada Discovery Tours, I have taken many visitors into many parts of rural Nevada and one of the prime assets they enjoy is the beautiful mountain scenery. There are plenty of developed places for us to visit: parks, communities, mines, historical sites, etc.

I have extensively explored and enjoyed the Jarbidge Wilderness, the Ruby Mountains, Currant Mountain, the Schell Range, and Mt. Wheeler. Our family camping experiences will always be cherished memories. I want my grandchildren to be able to have this same wilderness experience.

We need to protect and preserve these last remnants of forest wildlands that exist. I feel it is extremely important to give wilderness designation as the best way to protect their natural values, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities compatible with that wilderness.

Please see that my comments are entered as part of the public record.

Sincerely,

Jean Ford
Jean Ford

3511 Pueblo Way Las Vegas, Nevada 89109 (702) 735-5450

100-1 Please refer to response number 14-1.

100-2 Please refer to response number 14-4.

101 COMMENTS

SEP 25 1985

101

Patricia Jagger
94 Banner Dr.
Sonora, CA 95370

12 September 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Sir:

Please take note I am in favor of the "standards and Guidelines that portect the Bristlecone Pine. 101-1

I oppose construction or reconstruction of roads in or near roadless areas so that wildlife can be protected. and the area preserved. 101-2

Thank you.

Patricia Jagger

Patricia Jagger

RESPONSES

101-1 Please refer to response number 14-4.

101-2 Please refer to response number 14-3.

102 COMMENTS

SEP 25 1985

#102

September 20, 1985

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr Graves:

Upon review of the Humboldt National Forest Plan, I wish to support the proposed standards and guidelines for timber, range, riparian areas and wildlife. Special protection should be included of the Bristlecone Pine. 102-1 Because of the heavy traffic to the Humboldt National Forest areas, particularly in summer and during hunting season. Construction or re construction of roads in the roadless areas must not be allowed. 102-2

I am very concerned that the forest management plan, without explanation, failed to recommend roadless acreage for consideration as wilderness. It is my feeling, that passage of a Nevada Wilderness bill is uncertain. It is imperative that the Forest Service provide the forest planning process as a means to protect those roadless areas. Wilderness designation should be made for Jarbidge including Camp Creek, the headwater of Canyon creek and the country wesst of St Marys river for a total of some 54,000 acres. 102-3 I realize that you've had a great deal of pressure in resisting wilderness for this popular area. However, the comments I've heard were not against the wilderness designation, but against the closing of existing roads/trails TO the area. Elk Mountain, 12,500 acres; Santa Rosa, 80,000 acres of remote country. The Ruby Mountains with acreage up to 150,000 acres; The East Humboldt, Pearl Peak, South Schell and Mount Moriah. Wheeler Peak, 120,000 acres should be wilderness including the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake; Currant Mountain, Grant Range and Quinn Canyon should all be designated wilderness. 102-4 thru 102-14

Many happy memories are the result of camping, fishing and hunting in our Nevada Mountains. It is my concern that these roadless areas be preserved for our young people and those yet unborn. The forest service has always managed our public lands in a Manner which benefits all. The absence of wilderness designation in these areas is a serious fault.

Kudos to your staff for the preparation of a fine plan, please consider the addition of wilderness to make it complete.

Sincerely,

Lois Sagel

Lois Sagel
2009 Wengert
Las Vegas, NV 89104

RESPONSES

102-1 Please refer to response number 14-4.

102-2 Please refer to response number 14-3.

102-3 Please refer to response number 8-5.

102-4 Please refer to response number 8-11.

102-5 Please refer to response number 8-12.

102-6 Please refer to response number 8-4.

102-7 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

102-8 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

102-9 Please refer to response number 61-7.

102-10 Please refer to response number 8-2.

102-11 Please refer to response number 8-1.

102-12 Please refer to response number 8-3.

102-13 Please refer to response number 14-11.

102-14 Please refer to response number 8-7.

103 COMMENTS

SEP 25 1985

2104 Kirkland Ave
Las Vegas, Nev
89102

Sept 21, 1985
103

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nev 89801

Dear Mr. Graves,

I am writing to ask your support for including the Highland Ridge of the Wheeler Peak area in the Wilderness Bill. The 120,000 acres should be included in the bill including the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake. Thank you for your support in helping to protect this valuable area 103-1

Sincerely,
Howard & Cynthia
Cunningham

RESPONSES

103-1 Please refer to response number 8-1.

104 COMMENTS

SEP 25 1985

#104

September 21, 1985

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

Just a note to let you know that I strongly support WILDERNESS PROTECTION for the following areas now being scrutinized: Jarbidge Additions, Elk Mountain, Santa Rosa Mountains, Ruby Mountains (including the northern portion of the range for a total of 150,000 acres), East Humboldt, Pearl Peak, South Schell, Mount Moriah, Wheeler Peak (including the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake), Currant Mountain (Duckwater), Grant Range, and Quinn Canyon Range. I cannot emphasize enough the recreational and wildlife values of this forest land. "Standards and Guidlines" for the protection of the Bristlecone Pine should be supported. And construction or reconstruction of roads in or near these areas must be opposed. Please do what you can to protect these beautiful areas by designating them all WILDERNESS LANDS.

104-1
thru
104-14

Very sincerely yours,

N. Byng Hunt
P.O.Box 7902
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

RESPONSES

104-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

104-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

104-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

104-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

104-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

104-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

104-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

104-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

104-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

104-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

104-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

104-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

104-13 Please refer to response number 14-4.

104-14 Please refer to response number 14-3.

105 COMMENTS

SEP 25 1985

11 105

Clover Valley
Wells, Nev. 89801
Sept. 23, 1985

Mr. B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nev. 89801

RE: Humboldt National Forest - proposed management plan

Dear Mr. Graves,

My comments on the proposed management plan are:

1) In each of the alternatives of the Forest plan, AUM reduction is scheduled for several years. I cppose any AUM reduction. Sufficient reduction of AUMs has occurred in past years. By appropriate range management, AUMs can be increased in coming years from the current level without reduction. 105-1

2) I support only the area recommended for wilderness designation by Senators Laxalt and Hecht, and by Congressman Vucanovich. I oppose any other Nevada land being designated wilderness. 105-2

3) I support only restricted riparian areas that are established by approval of the affected permittees. Fencing of riparian areas would create problems for the distribution and grasing of livestock. Fence construction and maintainance is cost prohibitive. 105-3

4) I support exchanges of private and public land by decreasing red tape and excessive studies. Land exchanges could be accomplished in a much shorter time period and at less cost to the private land owner and the Government. 105-4

5) I support Nevada State control of State water rights.. I oppose water rights being usurped by the Federal Government. 105-5

6) The plan indicates approximately 53% of the range is unsuitable for livestock grasing. Range suitability for livestock grasing should be determined by cattle and sheep as they are willing to grase an area. Practical experience has also shown that water and forage availability determines range suitability for livestock. 105-6

7) Wild horse numbers need to be held at the 1971 level or lower. 105-7

RESPONSES

105-1 The Preferred Alternative (K), as depicted on Table II-13-A and B Chapter II of the FEIS, shows increases in virtually all resource values and outputs. While there may be an initial reduction in livestock use as allotment management plans are implemented on areas with possible stocking problems, livestock use is projected to increase over the course of the planning period. Livestock will continue to be an improtant tool in managing rangeland resources.

105-2 Our recommendation for wilderness is based on public input and multiple use concepts. Actual designation of wilderness, however, can only be made by Congress.

105-3 We are directed to consider all resources found on the Humboldt National Forest. Our evaluation and planning process arrived at a recommendation of 15% wilderness as best meeting the needs of all users concerned. This was not an arbitrary task but one into which we put much time and thought.

105-4 We agree that a land exchange process is time consuming and costly. However, a land exchange of publicly held land is an irreversible commitment of resources. A thorough evaluation of the lands that are exchanged is necessary to insure that the public's needs are met.

105-5 The Forest Service position on water rights is that they will comply with State law regulating water rights. If the Forest Service determines that a water right is needed it applies to the State for the rights. The water rights are essental for protection of public uses of National Forest System Lands including livestock grasing.

105-6 Please refer to response number 91-6.

105-7 Legislation specifies that wild horses shall be confined to territories established in 1971 and the population levels will be determined by considering the animals habitat requirements, available forage, permitted livestock, and other uses of the area.

105 CONT. COMMENTS

SEP 25 1985

#105

8) Right of way access should be obtained only by approval of the land owner involved. The requirements of the land owner need to be properly considered and accomodated. 105-8

9) Predator control needs to be adequate to keep livestock and wildlife losses at a minimum. 105-9

10) I suggest you put more emphasis on using livestock grazing as a tool for range management. It should have first priority. These range areas cannot be properly managed without the use of livestock. 105-10

11) Permittees should be included in any planning or proposed changes in their grazing area. 105-11

Sincerely,

Von L. Sorensen

RESPONSES

105-8 Rights-of-way are negotiated with landowners and purchased whenever possible. When a right-of-way is needed for administration of the National Forest and an agreement cannot be reached with the land owner, only then is the right of eminent domain exercised.

105-9 Predator control is the responsibility of APHIS. The Forest Service supports predator control and works with APHIS in making recommendations on method of control and any special precautions needed on each allotment.

105-10 Methods of properly managing the range resource are evaluated in each individual allotment management plan as they are developed in cooperation with the livestock permittee. Each allotment has its own distinctions and therefore requires a "custom made" grazing prescription.

105-11 Please refer to response number 105-7.

106 COMMENTS

SEP 25 1985

#106

WILLIAM J. LADEN
10481 SCENIC BLVD.
CUPERTINO CA 95014
SEPT. 22, 1985

B J. GRAVES, FOREST SUPERVISOR
HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST
976 MOUNTAIN CITY HWY
ELKO NV 89801

DEAR SIR;

I SUPPORT WILDERNESS DESIGNATION FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

(1) JARBIDGE ADDITIONS: I URGE INCREASED RECOMMENDATION TO INCLUDE CAMP CREEK, THE HEADWATERS OF CANYON CREEK, AND THE COUNTRY WEST OF ST. MARY'S RIVER FOR A TOTAL OF 54,000 ACRES. 106-1

(2) ELK MT.: I RECOMMEND 12,500 ACRES. 106-2

(3) SANTA ROSA: I RECOMMEND 80,000 ACRES. 106-3

(4) RUBY MTS: PROPOSAL SHOULD BE ENLARGED TO INCLUDE NORTHERN PORTION FOR A TOTAL OF 150,000 ACRES. 106-4

(5) EAST HUMBOLDT: PRIVATE LAND IN ACLER BASIN SHOULD BE ACQUIRED BY DIRECT PURCHASE FOR 31,000 ACRES TOTAL. 106-5

(6) PEARL PK: THE BOUNDARY SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO THE SOUTHEAST FOR A TOTAL OF 23,000 ACRES. 106-6

(7) S. SCHELL: 120,000 ACRES SHOULD BE SUPPORTED FOR WILDERNESS 106-7

(8) MT. MORIAH: PROPOSAL SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE SOUTHEAST PORTION FOR A TOTAL OF 98,000 ACRES. 106-8

(9) WHEELER PK: HIGHLAND RIDGE SHOULD BE INCLUDED FOR A TOTAL OF 120,000 ACRES. 106-9

RESPONSES

106-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

106-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

106-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

106-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

106-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

106-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

106-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

106-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

106-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

106 CONT. COMMENTS

SEP 25 1985

-2-

#106

(10) CURRANT MT; 49,000 ACRES SHOULD BE GIVEN WILDERNESS PROTECTION. 106-10

(11) GRANT RANGE; BOUNDARIES SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE 60,000 ACRES 106-11

(12) QUINN CANYON RANGE: 95,000 ACRES SHOULD BE DESIGNATED WILDERNESS. 106-12

RECREATIONAL AND WILDLIFE VALUES SHOULD BE EMPHASIZE IN THE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

BRISTLECONE PINE SHOULD BE SPECIALLY PROTECTED. 106-13

I OPPOSE CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION OF ROADS IN OR NEAR ROADLESS AREAS. 106-14

SINCERELY,

RESPONSES

106-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

106-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

106-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

106-13 Please refer to response number 14-4.

106-14 Please refer to response number 14-3.

107 COMMENTS

RESPONSES

SEP 25 1985

107

Norman Johnson
315 W. 3rd St, #509
Long Beach, CA 90802

September 21, 1985

Supervisor Graves
Humbolt National Forest
917 Mountain City Hway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear N.J.,

I am moved to tell you of my distress. For your management plan for the Humbolt fails to include vast roadless areas that are ideally suited for consideration as wilderness. If your plan prevails all meaningful protection for most of these roadless areas will be abandoned and they will be subject to eventual destruction. I bleed for the land! Please let my cry come unto you.

Comments			Responses
SANTA ROSA. These mountains are an outstanding natural feature of northwest Nevada. I beg you to recommend some 80,000 acres of this remote country for preservation.	107-1	107-1	Please refer to response number 8-12.
ELK MOUNTAIN. This forested area is a paradise, and to preserve it please add another 1300 acres and give the whole Wilderness protection. What we lose today may be lost forever.	107-2	107-2	Please refer to response number 8-11.
JARBIDGE ADDITIONS. This area would add mountain slopes and the drainages of Fox, Pine and Cottonwood Creeks to Nevada's only presently designated Wilderness. Please increase your recommendation to include Camp Creed and the headwaters of Canyon creek, and the country west of St Mary's River. What we lose today may be lost forever. Right? Right.	107-3	107-3	Please refer to response number 8-5.
EAST HUMBOLT. This beautiful area has too many pieces of privately owned land. The private parties should be bought out and some 35,000 acres recommended for Wilderness protection.	107-4	107-4	In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.
RUBY MOUNTAINS. This alpine wilderness is a hiker's paradise, what with their peaks and lakes and meadows and trout streams. Can you not include the northern part of the range for a total of 150,000 acres?	107-5	107-5	Please refer to response number 8-4.
PEARL PEAK. This is in the Ruby Mountains and noted for its stands of evergreens and the varied wildlife the area supports. You can extend your boundary to the southeast to include more acreage for protection.	107-6	107-6	It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

SEP 25 1985

#107

2.

SOUTH SCHELL. I suggest that 120,000 acres of this matchless wilderness country should be supported for Wilderness designation. Can you not do that? This Schell Creek Range extends for many miles above the timberline and with the timbered lower slopes it is an ideal recreational resource. 107-7

MOUNT MORIAH. How about enlarging your proposal to include the southeast portion of the roadless area for another 100,000 acres? I am with you in this! 107-8

CURRANT MOUNTAIN. This is remote country and supports bristlecone pine, mule deer, and bighorn sheep. It is worth preserving, and I urge you to give 50,000 Wilderness protection. 107-9

WHEELER PEAK. This is the jewel in the heart of the South Snake, and that glacier on the north face, small though it is, has put Wheeler Peak on the map. But you have failed to/include the Highland Ridge in your proposals, alas! This is all magnificent wilderness country. Please save it for us. 107-10

QUINN CANYON RANGE. This was recommended for wilderness status by you in RARE II. Please continue to protect it. I urge that 95,000 acres be designated. 107-11

GRANT RANGE. I know Troy Peak, and I know this mountain range supports hundreds of species of wildflowers, the desert bighorns, and a dozen or more tree species. Were the boundaries extended to include 60,000 acres greater protection would be given the bighorns and the vegetation. Can you not accomplish this? 107-12

POPE JOHN PAUL II said: "In the light of faith, earth is not a boundlessly exploitable reservoir, but part of the mystery of creation, not to be recklessly raided, but worthy of our awe and amazement."

GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS said: "Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet."

JOHN MUIR said: "The battle for conservation will go on endlessly. It is part of the universal warfare between right and wrong."

WALLACE STEGNER said: "Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed . . . if we pollute the last clean air and dirty the last clean streams and push our paved roads through the last of the silence."

So it is that I come to you to plead for greater extensions of protection for our wild lands. Please hear me.

Faithfully yours,

107-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

107-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

107-9 Please refer to response number 8-3.

107-10 Please refer to response number 8-1.

107-11 Please refer to response number 8-7.

107-12 Please refer to response number 14-11.

108 COMMENTS

#108

SEP 25 1985

9-20-85
#108

Dear Mr Graves,

Please support the largest area possible for wilderness. A wilderness area can always be developed later if need be, but a wilderness once lost is lost forever. Your forest is very beautiful and I love it as a forest. I hope you do too. 108-1

Sincerely,
David S Yoder

RESPONSES

108-1 Please refer to response number 14-1.

SEP 26 1985

#109

PLACER CO. CONSERVATION TASK FORCE

10425 Dillon Circle
Newcastle, Calif. 95658

September 23, 1985

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Hiway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

The members of the Placer Co. Conservation Task Force make frequent trips to Nevada, and would like to ask for the preservation of the following areas in Humboldt National Forest.

(1) In the Jarbridge area please include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and the country west of St. Mary's River for a total of 54,000 acres. We consider Jarbridge the most outstanding wilderness in Nevada. 109-1
We further recommend 12.500 acres of adjacent Elk Mt. for wilderness protection. 109-2

(2) We also consider the Ruby Mts. a truly beautiful area. Please enlarge the northern portion to make 150,000 acres. 109-3 In the northeast Ruby Mts. please acquire the private land in Acker Basin and protect 30,000 acres. 109-4 In the southeast we hope you will preserve 23,000 acres, including Pearl Peak. 109-5

(3) Mt. Moriah is also a superb, wild area. Please expand the southeast portion to include 98,000 acres. 109-6
We hope that you will include Highland Peak in the Wheeler Peak area, to make 120,000 acres in this area. 109-7
We also favor preserving 120,000 acres in the South Shell Range. 109-8

(4) Other areas we feel worthy of protection are the Santa Rosa Mts., Grant Range, and the Quinn Canyon Range. 109-9 109-10 109-11

We sincerely hope that you will endeavor to preserve these outstanding wilderness areas in Nevada.

Sincerely yours,

Helen Wauters

Helen Wauters, Secretary
Placer Co. Conservation
Task Force

109-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

109-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

109-3 Please refer to response number 8-4.

109-4 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

109-5 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

109-6 Please refer to response number 8-2.

109-7 Please refer to response number 8-1.

109-8 Please refer to response number 61-7.

109-9 Please refer to response number 8-12.

109-10 Please refer to response number 14-11.

109-11 Please refer to response number 8-7.

110 COMMENTS

SEP 30 1985

#110
9-21-85

Dear Mr. Graves,

I am writing to urge you in the strongest way to please support wilderness designation for the following areas in the Humboldt National Forest: Jarbridge Additions, Elk Mt., Santa Rosa, Ruby Mtns., E. Humboldt Pearl Pk. S. Schell, Mt. Mariah, Wheeler Pk. (Bristle-cone), Currant Mt. (Duckwater), Grant Range, Quinn Can. Range. Thanks so much for your very serious consideration of this most important matter

Sincerely

Glenn Ward

110-1
thru
110-12

RESPONSES

110-1	Please refer to response number 8-5.
110-2	Please refer to response number 8-11.
110-3	Please refer to response number 8-12.
110-4	Please refer to response number 8-4.
110-5	In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.
110-6	It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.
110-7	Please refer to response number 61-7.
110-8	Please refer to response number 8-2.
110-9	Please refer to response number 8-1.
110-10	Please refer to response number 8-3.
110-11	Please refer to response number 14-11.
110-12	Please refer to response number 8-7.

111 COMMENTS

SEP 26 1985

11 111

Harold W. Wood, Jr.
3603 Hillsdale #75A
Visalia, CA 93291

September 22, 1985

Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 8901

Re: Forest Management Plan

Dear Sir:

The Humboldt National Forest Plan should be amended to include Wilderness recommendations for the following areas:

Ruby Mountains	150,000 acres
South Schell	120,000 acres
Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone)	120,00 acres
Mount Mariah	98,000 acres
Quinn Canyon Range	95,000 acres
Santa Rosa	80,000 acres
Jarbridge Additions	54,000 acres
Currant Mountain (Duckwater)	49,000 acres
Pearl Peak	23,000 acres
Elk Mountain	12,500 acres
East Humboldt	30,000 acres
Grant Range	60,000 acres

111-1 thru 111-12

I find it disturbing that the highland ridge area of the Wheeler Peak area was not included in the Forest Service recommendation. This area, as well as the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake should be included in the Wilderness recommendation. 111-13

These still-wild areas are unique in the west due to their natural diversity of biota and landforms. The wildlife and ecological values of these areas far outweigh extractive resource potential. I oppose any construciton of roads in any of these roadless areas. 111-14

I support the "Standards and Guidelines" for protection of the Bristlecone Pine, and I urge the Forest Service to conduct an enhanced interpretive program at the Wheeler Peak area to educate the public about the scientific value of this species. 111-15

Thank you,

Harold W. Wood, Jr.

Harold W. Wood, Jr.

RESPONSES

111-1 Please refer to response number 8-4.

111-2 Please refer to response number 61-7.

111-3 Please refer to response number 8-1.

111-4 Please refer to response number 8-2.

111-5 Please refer to response number 8-7.

111-6 Please refer to response number 8-12.

111-7 Please refer to response number 8-5.

111-8 Please refer to response number 8-3.

111-9 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

111-10 Please refer to response number 8-11.

111-11 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

111-12 Please refer to response number 14-11.

111-13 Please refer to response number 8-1.

111-14 Please refer to response number 14-3.

111-15 Please refer to response number 14-4.

112 COMMENTS

SEP 26 1985

#112

Dan and Chris Meier
54 Hidden Cove
Sacramento, CA. 95831

September 20, 1985

B.J. Graves,
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest,
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

With regards to your proposed forest management plan for Humboldt National Forest, we recommend the following:

1. Designation of 120,000 acres (wilderness) for Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone, including Highland Ridge and the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake. 112-1

2. Expand the Grant Range wilderness to 60,000 acres to provide greater protection for the desert bighorn sheep. 112-2

3. Designation of 95,000 acres of wilderness for the Quinn Canyon Range. 112-3

RESPONSES

112-1 Please refer to response number 8-1.

112-2 Please refer to response number 14-11.

112-3 Please refer to response number 8-7.

112 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

SEP 26 1985

4. Include 150,000 acres in the Ruby Mountains wilderness proposal (i.e. include the northern portion of the range). 112-4

Thank You for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Dan and Chris

Dan and Chris Meier

112-4 Please refer to response number 5-4.

113 COMMENTS

9·23·85

SEP 26 1985

B.J. Graves;

1113

I am writing concerning future wilderness designation of various roadless areas in the Humboldt National Forest. Most of these areas are remote with high wildlife & recreational values. The roadless characteristics of these areas including the Jarbidge addition; Elk Mountain; Santa Rosa Mountains; Ruby Mountains enlarged to include the northern portion of the range; East Humboldt including purchase of private land in the Acher basin. Other areas for wilderness designation include South Schell; Mount Moriah with expansion to the South East Portion; The Wheeler Peak area including the Highland Ridge.

113-1 thru 113-8

These areas are some of the last unspoiled remote high wilderness areas left. They have little commercial value but great recreational & wildlife value that will increase with future years & generations.

Thank you
Lee S. Levin
LEE LEVIN
130 Piazza Way
San Jose, Calif
95127

RESPONSES

113-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

113-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

113-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

113-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

113-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

113-6 Please refer to response number 61-7.

113-7 Please refer to response number 8-2.

113-8 Please refer to response number 8-1.

SEP 26 1985

#114

BJ Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt Nat'l Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter to you as an urgent plea for preserving our wilderness and in support of more sound management practices.

re: Jarbidge Additions - I urge you to increase your recommendation to include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek & the country west of St Marys River for a total of some 54,000 acres. 114-1

re: Elk Mountain - please recommend 12,500 acres 114-2

Santa Rosa - please recommend 80,000 acres 114-3

Ruby Mts - I urge you to enlarge your proposal to include the northern portion of the range for a total of 150,000 acres 114-4

East Humboldt - Please, private land in Acker Basin should be acquired by direct purchase & 30,000 acres recommended for wilderness protection. 114-5

→ next page

114-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

114-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

114-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

114-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

114-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

READEX FICHE

114 COMMENTS

SEP 26 1985

-2-

#114

Pearl Peak - extend boundary to the southeast for a total of 23,000 acres 114-6

South Schell - 120,000 acres of this magnificent wilderness & recreational resource should be supported for wilderness designation. 114-7

Mount Moriah - expand proposal to include the S.E. portion of the roadless area to total 98,000 acres 114-8

Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone) Please designate 120,000 acres including the Highland Ridge and old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake 114-9

Currant Mountain (Duckwater) Please protect 49,000 acres here. 114-10

Grant Range - the boundaries should be expanded to include 60,000 acres & thereby provide greater protection for the sheep population. 114-11

Quinn Canyon Range I urge that 95,000 acres be designated for protective status. 114-12

RESPONSES

114-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

114-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

114-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

114-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

114-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

114-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

114-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

SEP 26 1985

-3-

#114

In summary, the Humboldt is a vast, diverse & dramatic national forest in eastern & northern Nevada. These area is a priceless territory that I truly believe should be preserved for my children and their children, etc. It has unlimited value as a recreational area and wildlife habitat. "Standards and Guidelines" for special protection of the Bristlecone Pine should be supported by you. 114-13 I vehemently oppose construction or reconstruction of roads in or near roadless areas. 114-14

I urge you in sincere honesty to believe in the importance of protecting these areas. These days it is getting harder & harder to find real things. Let's preserve this small portion of our precious earth for those that come after us so they may know how it really was before man left his mark.

Thankyou.

Sincerely a
concerned American
Mrs. Ruth Ann Lowe
10388 Alphonse St 8-D
Santee, CA 92071

114-13 Please refer to response number 14-4.

114-14 Please refer to response number 14-3.

115 COMMENTS

SEP 26 1985

Bev 9-23-85 #115

B.J. GRAVES, FOREST SUPERVISOR
HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST
976 MOUNTAIN CITY HIGHWAY
ELKO, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

I am writing you in regards to the forest mgmt. plans of the Humboldt Natl. Forest. I urge you to include the following additions for consideration as wilderness!

- Jarbidge Additions - Please include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek & the country west of St. Mary's River (some 54,000 acres) 115-1
- Elk Mountain - Please recommend 13,500 acres *Sportsmans paradise*
- SANTA ROSA - please recommend 80,000 acres of this remote country *Great trout fishing & large raptor population* 115-2
- Ruby Mountains - Please also include the northern section of the range for a total of 150,000 acres. * Excellent hiking - very beautiful * 115-3
- East Humboldt - Private land should be acquired by direct purchase and 30,000 acres should be designated as wilderness 115-4
- Pearl Peak - the boundary should be extended to the southeast for a total of 73,000 acres * Stands of Bristlecone & extensive wildlife * 115-5
- South Schell - 120,000 of this wilderness should be considered 115-6
- Mount Moriah - Please extend your proposal to include the southeast portion of the roadless area for a total of 92,000 acres. 115-7

RESPONSES

115-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

115-2 Please refer to response number 8-12.

115-3 Please refer to response number 8-4.

115-4 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

115-5 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

115-6 Please refer to response number 61-7.

115-7 Please refer to response number 8-2.

- ~~Wheeler~~ Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone) - Please include the
Highland Ridge. + designate 120,000 acres
including the old road from the upper
campground to Johnson lake 115-8

- Currant Mountain (Duckwater) - Please designate
49,000 acres * contains Bristlecone pine +
herds of bighorn sheep * 115-9

- GRANT RANGE - Please expand the boundaries to
include 60,000 acres that will provide greater
protection to the sheep population. 115-10

- QUINN CANYON RANGE - Please designate 95,000
acres 115-11

Sincerely,

Alan Sunger

Alan Sunger
442 Marlaga Ct. #12
Sunnyvale, CA
9/6/86

115-8 Please refer to response number 8-1.

115-9 Please refer to response number 8-3.

115-10 Please refer to response number 14-11.

115-11 Please refer to response number 8-7.

116 COMMENTS

SFP 26 1985

#116

26500 Val Verde Dr.
Carmel, CA 93923
Sept. 24, 1985

Dear Supervisor Graves:

I'm writing in regard to the Forest Management Plan for Humboldt Nat'l Forest, which has splendid wildlife and recreational values. Also, the Bristlecone Pine Forests need special protection. | 116-1

On the Jarbidge Additions, please include in your recommendation Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and the country west of St. Mary's River, for a total of some 54,000 acres. | 116-2

Certainly Elk Mountain must have wilderness protection---12,500 acres. | 116-3

The Santa Rosa Mountains have a large raptor population and excellent trout fishing. Some 80,000 acres of this remote country should be protected. | 116-4

In the Ruby Mountains, a classic alpine wilderness with plentiful wildlife, the Forest Service's proposal should be enlarged to include the northern portion of the range for a total of 150,000 acres. | 116-5

East Humboldt has dozens of lakes---private land in Acker Basin should be purchased and 30,000 acres recommended for wilderness protection. | 116-6

In the remote Pearl Peak area, with its Bristlecones and its wildlife, the boundary should be extended to the southeast for a total of 23,000 acres. | 116-7

South Schell: this magnificent wilderness area with all its recreational resources should be supported for wilderness designation---120,000 acres. | 116-8

In the Mount Moriah area, which includes a 12,000' peak and gorges and streams, the Forest Service should expand its proposal to include the southeast portion of the roadless area for a total of 98,000 acres. | 116-9

Wheeler Peak, 13,000' high, is the 2nd highest mountain in Nevada and unique in Nevada because of a glacier on its north side. It has many other peaks above 11,500' as well as extensive Bristlecone Pine forests. The Forest Service failed to include the Highland Ridge of this magnificent wilderness--please designate 129,000 acres in your proposal including the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake. | 116-10

Current Mountain: because of Bristlecone and bighorn sheep, 49,000 acres here should be given wilderness protection. | 116-11

In Grant Range, there are over 200 species of wildflowers, plus desert bighorns. Expand the boundaries to 60,000 acres, providing greater protection for the sheep. | 116-12

Quinn Canyon Range: this was recommended by the Forest Service in RARE II for wilderness & has been protected since 1973---95,000 acres should be designated. | 116-13

Sincerely
B. R. Harms
B. R. Harms

RESPONSES

116-1 Please refer to response number 14-4.

116-2 Please refer to response number 8-5.

116-3 Please refer to response number 8-11.

116-4 Please refer to response number 8-12.

116-5 Please refer to response number 8-4.

116-6 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

116-7 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

116-8 Please refer to response number 61-7.

116-9 Please refer to response number 8-2.

116-10 Please refer to response num,ber 8-1.

116-11 Please refer to response number 8-3.

116-12 Please refer to response number 14-11.

116-13 Please refer to response number 8-7.

117 COMMENTS

SEP 26 1985

2440 Kristen Lane
Carson City NV 89701
September 24, 1985
#11

BJ Greene
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Hwy
Elko NV 89801

Dear Mr. Greene:

I support the preservation of the following areas for wildlife survival:

#12 Jarbidge Additions |117-1
#13 Elk Mountain |117-2
#15 Ruby Mountains |117-3
#16 East Humboldt |117-4
#17 Pearl Peak |117-5

Cordially,
Conrad

RESPONSES

117-1	Please refer to response number 8-5.
117-2	Please refer to response number 8-11.
117-3	Please refer to response number 8-4.
117-4	In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.
117-5	It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

118 COMMENTS

SEP 26 1985

118

September 16, 1985

B.J. Graves
Forest Supevisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

COMMENTS ON HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN :

To Whom it may concern,

I have received a copy of the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. I have not been able to read the entire plan do to it's voluminous nature. I have read one section which I am strongly opposed to and would like to take this opportunity to file an official objection.

Page IV-151, section "Sc" and the section "S" immediately following. The wording of these items are clearly designed to elliminate helicopters from the proposed Wilderness Areas. I am strongly opposed to this concept for 2 reasons.

1) A " No Helicopter " policy would cause Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski to go out of business. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski has been operateing in the proposed Wilderness Area for 8 years. During this period a perfect safety record has been maintained and every Forest Service inspection was passed with honors.

Helicopter skiing is very compatible with Wilderness in the remote Ruby Mountains, but on a national basis helicopter skiing is considered a "nonconforming use". None of the proposed Nevada Wilderness Bills have Ruby Mountain Wilderness boundaries similar to the Wilderness boundaries proposed by the U.S.F.S.. In view of this Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski should be allowed continued use of the Ruby Mountains until a Wilderness Bill is actually passed. 118-1

2) A "No Helicopter" policy is contrary to the very goals which the Forest Plan is intended to achieve.

Page IV-1, Recreation Goal #1 states "Provide a broad range of outdoor recreation opportunities for all segments of the public". Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski is in the business to do exactly this. 118-2

RUBY MOUNTAIN HELI-SKI • P.O. BOX 1192 • LAMOILLE, NEVADA 89828 • (702) 753-6867

RESPONSES

118-1 In our re-analysis we have eliminated a portion of the Ruby Mountain Roadless Area containing most of the area you are presently operating in. By removing this area from our Wilderness Recommendation your operation will be minimally impacted.

118-2 The no helicopter policy in wilderness is not contrary to the goals of the Forest Plan. The wilderness law strictly prohibits motorized use or landing of aircraft in these areas. Wilderness is a part of the recreation opportunities the Plan proposes to provide the public.

118-3 We agree that Ruby Mountain Heli-ski provides a needed recreational opportunity. This is why we have modified our wilderness recommendation to minimize the impact on your operation.

SEP 26 1985

#118

the canyon road for enhanced snow mobileing and cross country skiing. The Snow Cat also cuts trails in the snow in the Dollar Lakes area. These trails are used extensively by snowmobilers and skiers. In the future Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski plans to set special cross country tracks.

Regarding trailhead facilities, Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski is prepared at all times to perform a rescue where ever needed. This is somthing only the most sophisticated trailhead facility could provide.

Recreation Goal #8 states, "Provide opportunities for the use of motor vehicles where they will not unacceptably impact Forest resources or unnecessarily impact other Forest users". During the permitted winter months helicopters and/or snow cats never touch the actual ground of the Forest. These vehicles touch only the snow, therefore there is no impact to the Forest and only a brief amount of noise pollution to Forest users which are rarely in the area during the winter.

Recreation Goal #9 states, "Provide for a pleasing visual landscape in the Humboldt National Forest". Where as Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski operates only on snow, the landscape remains visually pleasing.

Recreation Goal #10 states, " Protect the cultural resources located on Humboldt National Forest from land-disturbing activities and public vandalism". As previously stated Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski does not disturb the land. In fact the activities of Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski reduce the number of occurances of major avalanches which have an extremely distructive effect on the landscape. 118-3

See response 118-3 above.

The presence of Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski discourages vandalism. For example, no summer cabins have been vandalized in the winter since Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski personnel have been frequenting the cabin area (2 years).

Recreation Goal #11 states,"Preserve the natural ecosystems in the proposed Research Natural Areas". Again, Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski operates on the snow and has no effect on the ecosystems, other than the reduction of avalanches which destroy entire ecosystems.

Recreation Goal #12 states, Coordinate recreational programs with local, county, state and other federal recreation agencys. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski is always trying to work with different agencys and would be interested in working more closely in the future.

In summary, Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski has operated professionally in the proposed Wilderness area for 8 years. Every Recreation

118 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

[illegible] LJ 118

COMMENTS		RESPONSES
Whether transporting Boy Scouts in a Snow Cat, flying local cross country skiers to the top of the Rubies for a $50 fee or provideing a helicopter skiing experience for an adventurous Texan. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski provides a broad range of recreational services to all segments of the population without disturbing the winter environment.	118-2	See response 118-2 above.
Recreation Goal #2 states "Maintain existing developed site facilities". The bathroom building at the head end of Lamoille Canyon is maintained by Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski during the winter. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski cleans, maintains, discourages vandalism and uses the bathroom building for storage of emergency supplies. No other site facilities are used, as all of the activity takes place in the back country. Recreation Goal #3 states "Encourage private enterprise to develop desired recreation opportunities adjacent to the Forest". Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski is this type of enterprise. From conducting cross country ski lessons on flat ranch lands to attracting hundreds of out of state people to our quaint country inn. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski develops recreation adjacent to the Forest. Recreation Goal #4 states "Provide a broad spectrum of dispersed recreation opportunities". Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski accomplishes this better than any other immaginable enterprise. By means of helicopter all of our activities are extremely dispersed. Recreation Goal #5 states "Increase emphasis on management of dispersed recreation opportunities". Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski conducts an extensive marketing campaign. In fact Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski has introduced more households to the spectacular Ruby Mountains than any other organization. When people visit Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski every activity is managed professionally, every person signs in and all information is made available to the U.S.F.S.. Recreation Goal #6 states "Provide a trail system adequate for administrators, permitees and the recreating public to travel to and within the National Forest both summer and winter". During the winter months trails do not exist, they are covered with snow. Helicopter skiing requires no trails. Recreation Goal #7 states "Provide a system of managed cross-country ski and snowmobile trails with adequate trailhead facilities". Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski is in the best position to manage or assist in manageing such a system. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski personnel are in the mountains every day and have exceptional mobility. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski has a $100,000.00 Snow Cat which grooms	118-3	See response 118-3 above.

- 2 -

118 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

SEP 26 1985

#118

Goal of this Plan is compatable with the operations of Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski should be allowed to operate as it has always operated until a Wilderness Bill is passed.

Sincerely,

Andrew Bowers

Andrew Bowers
President
Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski

SEP 26 1985

September 23, 1985
#-114

Dear Mr. Graves:

I believe the Humboldt National Forest possesses great recreational and wildlife values. As such I would like to see the following areas included as wilderness:

1. Quinn Canyon Range: 95,000 acres 119-1
2. Grant Range: 60,000 acres
3. Currant Mountain (Duckwater): 49,000 acres 119-3
4. Wheeler Peak: 120,000 acres including Highland Ridge 119-4
5. Mount Moriah: 98,000 acres 119-5
6. South Schell: 120,000 acres 119-6
7. Pearl Peak: 23,000 acres 119-7
8. East Humboldt: 30,000 acres including Acker Basin 119-8
9. Ruby Mountains: 150,000 acres 119-9
10. Santa Rosa: 80,000 acres 119-10
11. Elk Mountain: 12,500 acres 119-11
12. Jarbidge Additions: 54,000 acres including Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and the area west of St. Mary's River. 119-12

Sincerely,

John Honsberger

119-1	Please refer to response number 8-7.
119-2	Please refer to response number 14-11.
119-3	Please refer to response number 8-3.
119-4	Please refer to response number 8-1.
119-5	Please refer to response number 8-2.
119-6	Please refer to response number 61-7.
119-7	It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.
119-8	In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.
119-9	Please refer to response number 8-4.
119-10	Please refer to response number 8-12.
119-11	Please refer to response number 8-11.
119-12	Please refer to response number 8-5.

SEP 26 1985

#129 EPT 23-85

PAGE 1

Mr. Sal Tromba + Family
2321 FLORAL
SELMA, CALIF.
93662

DEAR MR GRAVES (FOREST SUPERVISOR OF HUMBOLDT NATL. FOREST)
JARBIDGE ADDITIONS)

WE WRITE YOU TO PROTECT HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST. WE URGE THE FOREST SERVICE TO INCREASE ITS RECOMMENDATION TO INCLUDE CAMP CREEK, THE HEADWATERS OF CANYON CREEK, AND THE COUNTRY WEST OF ST. MARY'S RIVER FOR A TOTAL OF SOME 54,000 ACRES. 120-1

ELK MOUNTAIN, WE URGE THE FOREST SERVICE TO RECOMMEND 12,500 ACRES. THE FORESTED AREA IN THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE STATE. THIS IS A SPORTSMAN'S PARADISE AND MUST HAVE WILDERNESS PROTECTION. 120-2

SANTA ROSA NORTHWEST NEVADA WE ENCOURAGE THE FOREST SERVICE TO RECOMMEND SOME 80,000 ACRES OF THIS REMOTE COUNTRY. 120-3

RUBY MOUNTAINS GLACIER-CARVED RUBIES. WE URGE THE FOREST SERVICE'S PROPOSAL SHOULD BE ENLARGED TO INCLUDE THE NORTHERN PORTION OF THE RANGE FOR TOTAL OF 150,000 ACRES. 120-4

EAST HUMBOLDT. N. EAST RUBY MOUNTAINS AND THE 11,300 FOOT HOLE IN THE MOUNTAIN PEAK. PRIVATE LAND SHOULD PAGE 2 — [illegible] 120-5

120-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

120-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

120-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

120-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

120-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

120 CONT. COMMENTS

SEP 26 1985 (2) # 120

BE ACQUIRED BY DIRECT PURCHASE AND 30,000 ACRES RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS PROTECTION. 120-5

PEARL PEAK. THE REMOTE AREA SOUTH OF HARRISON PASS IN RUBY MOUNTAINS. STANDS OF BRISTLECONE PINE AND EXTENSIVE WILDLIFE. WE URGE THE FOREST SERVICE THE BOUNDARY SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO THE SOUTHEAST FOR TOTAL OF 23,000 ACRES. 120-6

SOUTH SCHELL. THE LONG SCHELL CREEK RANGE EXTENDS FOR MANY MILES ABOVE TIMBERLINE, REACHING ITS HIGHEST POINT AT 12,000 FT. SCHELL PEAK. 120,000 ACRES OF THIS MAGNIFICENT WILDERNESS AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES SHOULD BE SUPPORTED FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION. 120-7

MOUNT MORIAH. THIS RUGGED WILDERNESS INCLUDES 12,000 PEAK, SHEER-WALLED GORGES, EXCELLENT TROUT STREAMS. WE URGE THE FOREST SERVICE SHOULD EXPAND ITS PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE THE SOUTHEAST PORTION OF THE ROADLESS AREA FOR A TOTAL OF 98,000 ACRES. 120-8

WHEELER PEAK - BRISTLECONE. THE JEWEL OF THE SOUTH SNAKE RANGE, 13,000 FOOT WHEELER PEAK IS THE SECOND HIGHEST MOUNTAIN IN NEVADA AND UNIQUE IN THE STATE. IT HAS EXTENSIVE BRISTLECONE PINE FORESTS AS WELL AS MANY PEAKS ABOVE 11,500 FEET. THE FOREST SERVICE HAS FAILED TO INCLUDE THE HIGHLAND RIDGE 120-9

PAGE 3 →

RESPONSES

120-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

120-7 Please refer to response number 81-7.

120-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

120-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

SEP. 26 1985 (3) 11 12.0

THIS MAGNIFICENT WILDERNESS AND [illegible] WE URGE THE FOREST SERVICE TO DESIGNATE 120,000 ACRES IN ITS PROPOSAL, INCLUDING THE OLD ROAD FROM THE UPPER CAMPGROUND TO JOHNSON LAKE. 120-9

CURRANT MOUNTAIN (DUCKWATER) THIS LIMESTONE [illegible] WILDERNESS IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF WHITE PINE RANGE CONTAINS BRISTLECONE, BIGHORN SHEEP AND MULE DEER. WE URGE THE FOREST SERVICE THAT 49,000 ACRES BE GIVEN — WILDERNESS PROTECTION. 120-10

GRANT RANGE. THIS HUGE LIMESTONE RANGE CULMINATES WITH 11,300 FOOT TROY PEAK ENCOMPASSING OVER 200 SPECIES OF WILD FLOWERS, A DOZEN TREE SPECIES AND DESERT BIGHORN. WE URGE, THE BOUNDARIES SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE 60,000 ACRES AND THEREBY PROVIDE GREATER PROTECTION FOR THE SHEEP POPULATION. 120-11

QUINN CANYON RANGE. THIS SCENIC EXTENSION OF HIGH COUNTRY OF THE GRANT RANGE WAS RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS BY THE FOREST SERVICE IN (RARE II) AND HAS BEEN — [illegible] WE URGE THE FOREST SERVICE THAT 95,000 ACRES BE DESIGNATED. THANK YOU 120-12

SIR. GRAVES. WE MUST SAVE OUR WILDERNESS. YOURS SINCERELY, [illegible]

[illegible]

120-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

120-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

120-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

120-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

121 COMMENTS

SEP 26 1985

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION
BOX 36098 • 450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102
(415) 556-8200

ER85/1044

SEP 24 1985

B. J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

The Department of the Interior has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Proposed Plan (Plan) for the Humboldt National Forest and has the following comments in regard to the subject DEIS and Plan.

Cave Management

The following comments apply to the proposed Plan's treatment of the Snake Management Area which borders on Lehman Caves National Monument.

1. There is brief mention (IV-300) of "Cultural Resource Inventory, Evaluation,..." etc. There is no mention of specific cultural resources, however. We believe that the Osceola Ditch, which extends for 18 miles from the Lehman Creek drainage to the Osceola gold mining district, deserves special protection consideration, perhaps even National Register nomination. Where there is one site on the ditch which has an interpretive sign and short walking trail, there is no direction in the plan for further protection. The ditch, which diverted water for placer mining operations during the late 1800's, is well preserved over most of its length. We recommend continued protection of this resource addressed in the Forest Plan. 121-1

2. Under the heading of "Recreation: Facility and Site Management" (IV-303), a Management Direction is stated as follows: Pave Baker Creek road and campground if money becomes available." We disagree with this direction. There are two primary recreation areas immediately adjacent to Lehman Caves National Monument, Baker Creek and Lehman Creek. Presently the Lehman Creek road and the three campgrounds located along the road are all paved. We believe that the Baker Creek road, which cuts across a corner of Lehman Caves National Monument, should remain unpaved to serve that portion of the visiting public who pefer a more primitive, less developed, recreational experience. 121-2

3. Cave Management is discussed briefly on Page IV-304. "Update and follow approved Cave Management Plan" is stated as a management direction. We would recommend the preparation of a more useable cave management plan which separates specific cave location information which should be kept uncirculated, from cave management policy which should be well circulated. An excellent example to follow is the BLM Ely District Cave Management Plan, which is nearing completion. 121-3

RESPONSES

121-1 We agree that the Osceola Ditch should be considered more specifically in the Plan. Management direction has been added for further evaluation and continued protection as appropriate.

121-2 The Baker Creek Road provides access to the Baker Creek Campground. This campground is a highly developed campground with flush toilets and hardened campsites. There is also the Baker Creek Trail head and interpretive trail on the Baker Creek Road.

During the normal season of use, this road receives an average of 10 to 30 vehicles per day. The steep grade and volume of traffic cause the road to washboard. Normal maintenance has only a short term benefit to this condition. To resolve the problem we would have to realign the road to reduce the grades or pave the surface.

Visiting recreationists regularly complain about the rough condition of this road.

The Forest has reevaluated the paving of the Baker Creek Road and still believe it is in the public interest.

The Lexington Arch road is in poor condition. At present the use on this road is low receiving an estimated average of 2 to 3 vehicles per day. Reconstruction of this road will be evaluated and weighed along with the demand for reconstruction of other roads on the Forest road system.

In reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments several revisions have been made to the management emphasis levels placed on recreation. As a result several changes have been made in the Forest Action Plan concerning trail activities.

121-3 Specific cave locations are not part of the Cave Management Plan.

121-4 We agree, and will continue to work with the USGS to resolve this problem.

121-5 The intent of the first standard was to recognize that people may unintentionally remove bristlecone pine that such a problem can be prevented through education, such as posting signs. It is our intent to work within existing regulations and develop standards and guidelines which provide direction to protect bristlecone pine.

121-6 The headings for cultural resources in the texts are adequate.

121-7 The format of the DEIS was established by regulation which we cannot change.

121-8 Neither Alternative G nor Alternative B is included in detail in the DEIS. This is because Alternatives B and G were evaluated but not considered in detail as provided for in the NEPA process.

121-9 We have reworded and reorganized the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines which give more explicit emphasis to cultural resources rather than relegating such information to the planning records.

SEP 26 1985 # 121

4. A guideline is listed under Cave Management which would "encourage NPS not to give cave locations." We have no problem with this, and will continue to refer USFS related cave inquiries to the Forest Service. An additional guideline might similarly encourage the USFS to refrain from indicating cave entrance locations on the topographic maps which are currently in the production process. 121-4

5. The protection of bristlecone pine trees is discussed on page IV-317. One standard states: "Properly sign the Pole Canyon road to prevent unintentional removal of bristlecone pine." The next standard states: "Protect bristlecone pine, including remnants, from destruction or removal by unauthorized persons." In light of the second standard, we recommend that the word "unintentional" be removed from the first standard. We also feel that the second standard does not go far enough. A major deficiency at present is the lack of any regulation which specifically protects bristlecone pines. We believe the standard would be more effective if stated: "Promulgate and enforce regulations which specifically protect bristlecone pine, including remnants, from destruction or removal by unauthorized persons." 121-5

Cultural Resources

We suggest the following revisions in the organization of the cultural resources sections of the DEIS and the Plan:

(a) Discussions of cultural resources are difficult to locate within the texts because they are for the most part, subsumed under the heading RECREATION, although a few entries do appear under the heading CULTURAL RESOURCES. 121-6

(b) The overview discussion of cultural resources (DEIS, page III-13) should precede rather than follow the discussion of impacts/benefits associated with specific alternatives the Forest is considering. 121-7

(c) Alternative G is not included in the DEIS. 121-8

(d) The sections of the Plan and DEIS dealing with cultural resources and their management have received only cursory and superficial treatment compared to other significant natural resources/issues the Forest must consider. 121-9

2. Although 625 recorded cultural sites are noted in the DEIS, insufficient information is provided regarding the categories (and breakdown) of resources represented, the number and types of sites already determined eligible or potentially eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, and potential impacts to National Register or eligible properties. 121-10

3. Because the percentage of total inventory conducted to date is low, with some 2,000,490 acres (exclusive of inaccessible land) remaining to be inventoried, it is recommended that the Forest Service develop and implement an explicit cultural resources inventory plan to obtain a representative cultural resources sample for the Humboldt National Forest. For planning purposes only, such a program should entail systematic coverage of at least 5% 121-11

Over the next ten years, activities proposed for implementation through the Forest Plan include: the inventory and evaluation of cultural resources in 27 specified areas, formal evaluation of 14 recorded sites/complexes/districts, development of 19 management plans for the protection/enhancement/ interpretation of cultural resources, National Register nomination of at least five properties, monitoring of significant sites on an annual basis, and completion of a Cultural Resource Overview (CRO). This is in addition to routine project related activities and compliance work. We do not agree that this is a cursory or superficial treatment of cultural resources.

121-10 All of this is contained in the planning records and particularly in the Analysis of the Management Situation document and is not reiterated here. Further, fourteen specific sites considered eligible or potentially eligible are defined by management area for futher evaluation for nomination.

121-11 Regional research designs and pertinent research domains are included in the Archaeological Element for the State Historic Preservation Plan. Forest Curltural Resource Management (CRM) staff members were specifically involved in the development of this Plan and we have a vested interest in its continued development and updating. We do not suggest that the State Plan should replace the CRO but that the State Plan represents an integrated approach for research in Nevada and for a coordinated effort between the various Federal and State agencies involved in land management and the decision-making process. As such it lends direction to the Forest CRM program.

Furthermore, Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines provide for implementation of programmatic survey as does direction by Management Area. Also, please refer to response number 121-9.

121-12 By definition, "historical" is acceptable, particularly in reference to something which is not necessarily famous in history. Please note that existing (and proposed) regulations refer to all "significant" cultural resources as "historic properties" whether "historic" or "prehistoric". Furthermore, we are living in the contemporary period; its historicity is yet to be determined.

121-13 All of this is contained in applicable law and regulation and is not reiterated here. However, we have added more explicit reference to those applicable mandates to clarify direction in the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

121-14 Unfortunately you have not cited specific examples to which we can respond.

121-15 In the FEIS we are required to address the effects of other resource activities on cultural resources and the effects which cultural resource management can have on other activities by alternative. This has been done. Monitoring and protection of significant sites are addressed in Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Goals, and the Implementation Plan as well as for some specific sites by management area. Also within Management Area direction, there are provisions for development of plans for management including protection and interpretation of specific sites and areas. Specificity of protection will be addressed in appropriate plans. This is an essential part of tiering.

121 CONT. COMMENTS

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#121

of the Forest area. A reasonable cultural resources management plan, coordinated with the State Office of Historic Preservation, could then be developed and incorporated within the overall Forest Land and Management Plan. Such a survey, however, would not be adequate to assess specific project impacts to unsurveyed lands. 121-11

4. DEIS, page III-14: The distinction should be made between the use of the word "historic" and "historical." Archeological sites are either historic or prehistoric (and sometimes contain both components). Sites are therefore historic (not historical); and the period we are living in is the historic period (not the historical period). 121-12

5. The DEIS and the Plan both fail to include anything regarding cultural resources legislation or regulations, and nothing about the compliance process. 121-13

6. The section on cultural resource management directions in the Plan is poorly articulated with the DEIS. 121-14

7. Both the Plan and the DEIS fail to address potential adverse impacts to specific known cultural resources. 121-15

8. The Plan's cultural resources management directives (pages IV-24 through 26) are particularly confusing. The first seven (7) directives are numbered; the remaining 1-1/2 pages of directives are not. The list tends to suffer from a shotgun approach instead of a well thought out sequential set of related activities and steps. We suggest the following changes to the directives: 121-16

--Directive 1: The standards, guidelines, and Federal laws alluded to should be specified along with the steps in the compliance process. 121-17

--Directives 3 and 4: It is difficult to see how adequate "thematic" studies can be developed out of "programmatic" inventory (project by project?), or, by "nominating an average of one property every two years until potential is reached" (see final line, page IV-25). 121-18

--Directive 6: This statement is incomplete. 121-19

--Directive 7: The areas referred to as having "high" or "moderate" sensitivity should be identified and discussed. On what basis was the classification assigned? Are there pertinent archeological studies that should be referenced and included in the bibliography? 121-20

--Page 25: Completion of a Cultural Resources Overview (with a regional Research Design), as well as a Cultural Resources Management Plan, should be given high priority and not delayed until 1988 or later (the typographic error "1978" in the text should be corrected). 121-21

--Page 25: What does "full consultation" consist of (and with whom) in the statement "Evaluate all significant properties, including full consultation?" The statement could be better phrased, i.e., "Evaluate all properties for significance and potential eligibility according to the criteria specified in Title 36 CFR 60.6." 121-22

RESPONSES

121-16 To clarify, these are not "directives" or "activities"; these are Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines. Management direction and activities are contained in Chapter IV by management area. We agree that there is some confusion and lack of explanation. These standards and guidelines have been rearranged, along with some rewording and additions.

121-17 To clarify regulatory mandates, we have added specific reference to pertinent laws, regulations, and guidelines. The steps of the compliance process are contained in applicable regulation (which is currently under revision) and are not reiterated here. This level of description is part of the planning record and is not specifically included within the context of the Plan itself.

121-18 Programmatic inventory is that which is conducted to benefit the cultural resource program and not that which is conducted on a project by project basis. We believe that programatic inventory (and evaluation) is in fact what is necessary to achieve thematic evaluations.

121-19 This is a printing error and has been corrected.

121-20 This standard has been re-written and states in part, "...To implement Forest-wide inventory, base data will be prepared for identifying high and moderate sensitivity for cultural resources. Priority will be given to areas with the highest predictability and based on issues, values, risks, and input from the SHPO as appropriate."

121-21 We agree that completion of a Cultural Resource Overview (CRO) is critical. Regional direction calls for a 1990 completion date. We have stated that a CRO will be completed by 1988 (not "until 1988 or after") which allows two years for preparation. The Forest views this document as a priority, but the time for it must be balanced with all other CRM work. The typo has been corrected from 1978 to 1988.

121-22 We agree that the wording is confusing and have changed it in the Final Plan.

121-23 These are not intended as substitutes for National Register criteria. They are intended to achieve a level of specificity not contained in the regulations. We have added reference to regulatory criteria and to the State Historic Preservation Plan to preface the more specific items. We see no need to add the term "historic" here. "Victorian" will not be changed to "Victorial". The typo "Datas" has been changed to "Data".

121-24 Potential of National Register nominations is not defined as 57,000 sites. This particular number of sites is an estimation of all sites yet to be identified on the Forest to give the reader a feel for the projected scope of work. These sites would range anywhere from small surface scatters of flakes or tin cans to deep stratified rockshelters and old mining towns. It should be understood that there are many sites which will never be nominated or perhaps even considered eligible. Equally, many sites which might be determined eligible will undergo data recovery or other forms of mitigation and then be entirely destroyed during implementation of certain undertakings. At the most drastic end of the spectrum, by regulation, after the Advisory Council has

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--Page 25, also: The minimal data categories (a through c) presented, while important, are not substitutes for the actual National Register criteria referenced above which should be specified. Item "a" should be rephrased to read "historic data relating to Victorial settlement...etc." Item "c" should read "data," not "datas" (data is plural). 121-23

--Page 25: Nominating an "average" of one property to the National Register every two years until "potential" is reached (57,000 sites, or 114,000 years) is not realistic and should be reconsidered and rephrased. 121-24

--Page 26: The directive "Conduct enhancement activities to meet project mitigation and protection needs in coordination with VIS and interpretive plans" is somewhat vague. What type of enhancement activities constitute mitigation of adverse impacts to an archeological property, or, contribute to a property's protection? 121-25

--Page 26, also: The directive "as appropriate, implement avoidance, data recovery, or mitigation practices" should be reworded. Mitigation practices include avoidance, data recovery, etc. Additionally, how are sites with National Register potential to be protected? 121-26

Minerals

The review of the DEIS and Plan has revealed some good features and some deficiencies with regard to minerals. The section on minerals from IV-29 to IV-41 is, generally, an excellent descriptive document. However, under the Effects of the Alternatives section, IV-32, only the effect of mineral withdrawal is addressed. Management restrictions are not even acknowledged to exist. The following is a table copied from the Beaverhead National Forest Revised DEIS. 121-27

Using the above information the Forest lands were placed in four categories:

Category A Withdrawn or proposed for withdrawal from mineral entry.

1. Wilderness areas
2. Wild and scenic rivers
3. Sites for facilities
4. Historic and cultural sites
5. Developed recreation sites

Category B Statutes or executive orders require specific protection or mitigation measures.

1. Proposed wilderness areas
2. Congressionally mandated wilderness study areas
3. RARE II Further Planning areas
4. T&E Species
5. Roadless (Type I) dispersed recreation areas
6. Culturally significant areas

RESPONSES

been given the opportunity to comment, it is conceivable that even "significant" sites could be destroyed without any mitigating measures let alone being nominated to the Register.

We do not believe that it is the intent of Federal law and regulation to indiscriminately nominate all sites to the National Register, but rather to make in-depth evaluations of significance and to develop an inventory of those properties deemed to contribute to the enhancement of the cultural environment and edification of the public and scientific communities.

Furthermore, there is no stipulation in the Plan that nomination cannot exceed one every two years, but rather a stipulation that at least one must be accomplished every two years; wording has been changed to clarify this point. Given time and funding required to successfully nominate a property, the requirement of doing one every other year is indeed realistic.

121-25 We not only find this vague, as well, but a mixture of what should be several standards/guidelines. Wording has been changed. Please refer to response number 16 above.

121-26 Actually, under current regulation and supplemental guidelines activities such as avoidance and data recovery are associated with "negation" of adverse effects in reaching a determination of "No Adverse Effect". "Mitigation" of effect is associated with the process involved in a determination of "Adverse Effect". The two processes are quite different. However, it appears that these differences might be too finite for general understanding, and in light of potential changes in regulatory wording, we have added the word "other" before "mitigation practices".

Protection is addressed in the standards and guidelines which ahve been reorganized. Specificity will be addressed in management plans which are provided for in Management Area Direction.

121-27 The "Effects of the Alternatives" section regarding minerals is not limited to page IV-32. The entire section you mentioned in Chapter IV deals with the effects of implementing the alternatives on the minerals resources.

121 CONT.

COMMENTS			RESPONSES
Ll. 121			
Category C Special conditions exist on lands which require special lease stipulations or plan of operation conditions. 1. Big game winter range 2. Elk calving area 3. Riparian area			
Category D Standard lease stipulations and plan of operation conditions apply. 1. Timber production areas 2. Existing mineral processing areas			
Are there any restrictions on operations by Humboldt that would compare with categories B and C on the enclosed table?	121-28	121-28	Standards and guidelines under which mining operations are conducted on National Forest administered lands are located in Chapter Four of the Final Plan, as well as Appendix H.
We acknowledge that determining the potential of lands for minerals is a difficult task; however, most forest plans presently have tables and maps that compare acres of high-medium-low locatable mineral potential with the acres available in various management criteria. Refer to tables of these comparisons from the Beaverhead and Helena National Forest DEIS's. It is highly advisable that comparable tables be included in a revised DEIS.	121-29	121-29	Minerals and energy values were used in developing and comparing alternatives. As discussed in the "Analysis of the Management Situation" and DEIS the Forest was evaluated and qualitative ratings compiled for minerals/energy potential. These ratings were an integral part of the roadless area evaluation. In addition, the benefits to local, county, and state economies derived from minerals/energy activities were used in calculating outputs and benefits for the alternatives. The Toiyabe as you indicated in your letter, calculated a dollar value which they extrapolated to the entire Forest to derive a "per acre dollar value". For development and evaluation of alternatives we determined this extrapolated figure was not necessary. Mineral/energy values were thoroughly considered by use of a qualitative rating.
Although the tone of the documents with regard to minerals is favorable, the text and tables of the report lack specificity on acreage of potential (particularly locatable minerals) and possible operating restrictions. We suggest the Humboldt Forest personnel review DEIS's from Region One. We believe the Beaverhead, Helena, and Deer Lodge DEIS's are especially good examples to consider.	121-30	121-30	Please refer to response number 121-28.
Nationwide Rivers Inventory Three rivers listed in the Inventory, the Mary's, North Fork Little Humboldt and the West Fork Jarbidge Rivers are located within the Forest. On page III-13 of the DEIS, it is stated that these three rivers were evaluated and none were found qualified for further study for potential designation as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. We recommend that the results of the evaluations be summarized in the Plan descriptions of the affected management areas--Jarbidge Mountains and Santa Rosa--along with the management direction prescribed to protect, rehabilitate and maintain the instream resources of these rivers in lieu of National System designation.	121-31	121-31	The Evaluation Reports for the three rivers (Mary's, North Fork Little Humboldt and West Fork Jarbidge) is available for public review at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Elko. We felt it would be redundant and not necessary to repeat information from the Evaluation Reports in the Forest Plan. Riparian areas will be managed according to direction, standards, and guidelines outlined within Chapter IV of the Final Plan.
Utility Corridors The North/South utility corridor shown in the Schell Management Area on the Forest Plan Map is inconsistent with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) planning documents which identify no existing or proposed corridors on adjacent BLM land. The North/South corridor shown on the map seems to contradict your statement on page IV-288, MIH code J01, that utility corridors are limited to the existing corridors of Copper Canyon/Copper Wash and Conners Pass.	121-32	121-32	The North/South utility corridor is part of the Copper Canyon/Upper Wash Corridor.
The East/West utility corridor shown in the Jarbidge and Mountain City	121-33	121-33	The East/West corridor was not drawn correctly on the Forest Plan Map. On the east end it should extend to the Forest boundary connecting into the existing corridor extending north. The west end branches to the Rio Tinto Mine and the town of Mountain City and extends onto the Duck Valley Indian Reservation.

COMMENTS

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Management areas on the Forest Plan Map is inconsistent with BLM planning documents which identify no existing or proposed corridors on adjacent BLM land. 121-33

Wetland/Riparian habitat

Under Alternative K (preferred alternative) stronger guidelines for the management and protection of wetland/riparian areas are recommended. The riparian habitat in the Humboldt National Forest is widely scattered and variable in quantity. Many wildlife species are obligatory users of this habitat. Management goals should include guidelines that result in more than a "slight" improvement of riparian habitat. 121-34

As stated in Fish & Wildlife Service, Great Basin Complex letter of July 9, 1985, our File No. 1-5-85-1-19, formal Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act requirements can best be accomplished on a project-by-project basis as implementation of the plan proceeds. Any programs planned by the Humboldt National Forest which are designed to benefit peregrine falcon, bald eagle, or Lahontan cutthroat trout should be consistent with actions and objectives stated in respective Recovery Plans for those species. We also reemphasize that Forest plans should include consideration for species presently being considered for future listing (candidate species). Though not currently protected by law, consideration of these species in the planning process may avoid the necessity to proceed with listing as threatened or endangered in the future. Fish & Wildlife Service indicates that there are 13 such candidate plans and animals (category 2) within the Humboldt National Forest boundary (see Fish & Wildlife Service, Great Basin Complex letter of January 7, 1985.) 121-35

Specific Comments

EIS page IV-14(5) Special Habitats - Under the preferred Alternative K, slight improvement is planned for aquatic and riparian habitats. Can this be quantified in terms of percent improvement over the current management (Alt. H)? Riparian zones are critical for fish, big game, resident and migratory birds. Many species are obliged, at least seasonally, to use these areas. Under the PNV (Alt. C), 1985 RPA (Alt. F), and non-market (Alt. J), riparian areas would be managed to maximize their potential vegetative productivity. Under Alternatives C and F, aquatic habitats would be expected to have the greatest opportunity to improve. It is recommended that the guidelines for management of wetland/riparian habitat under Alt. K meet goals similar to those of Alternative C, F, and J. 121-36

EIS page III-25, last paragraph - It is stated that approximately 25 percent of the riparian areas remain in poor condition. These areas should be restored to at least good condition if possible. 121-37

EIS page IV-9(d) Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources - It is stated "impacts that cannot be mitigated include sedimentation of streams due to erosion, or the loss of wildlife or plant species." It is recommended that road construction activities follow guidelines to 121-38

RESPONSES

121-34 We agree. Based upon public comment, we have strengthened our management emphasis regarding riparian areas. Management direction in the Final Plan will provide for more than a "slight" improvement of riparian habitat.

121-35 Candidate species were considered as were sensitive species.

121-36 Please refer to response number 121-34.

121-37 We agree and plan to do so.

121-38 We agree regarding road construction criteria. In terms of riparian areas, it is a matter of managing rather than restricting cattle to minimize erosion.

COMMENTS

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minimize erosion by preventing damage to watershed areas and riparian habitat. Similarly, livestock management objectives should be designed to minimize erosion by restricting cattle from riparian areas. 121-38

Wilderness Management

1. We have two comments concerning the proposed management of the Bristlecone Recommended Wilderness Management Area. On page IV-343, it is proposed that signs be routed redwood. We would recommend unpainted cedar as an equal for wilderness area signs. 121-39 Additionally, on page IV-349 a management direction states: "Allow (mineral) exploration..." It should be made clear that this is only on existing, valid, mining claims. 121-40

2. Finally, we would like to add to the list of recommended wilderness areas in the preferred alternative (Alt. K). We believe that it would be appropriate, and we support the inclusion of the Highland Ridge roadless area (No. 4-391) in the southern Snake Range for wilderness designation. We believe that the area in the vicinity of Lehman Caves National Monument will continue to experience increasing recreational use and pressure. A good mix of recreational opportunities will be needed to meet the demand. Well developed sites are already available at Lehman Caves and along Lehman and Baker Creeks. Opportunities for more dispersed recreation are available in numerous other stream valleys (Snake Creek, Lexington Creek, Strawberry Creek, etc.). Demand for more primitive recreation will also increase and can most reasonably be protected in this area which already has an emphasis placed on recreation by the visiting public. The Highland Ridge area is somewhat more remote than the Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone) Recommended Wilderness Area. As such, it is less well known and visited; thereby preserving its wilderness characteristics. It is equally spectacular and remote, however. We believe it, too, deserves wilderness designation. 121-41

Other Comments

Our review of the subject DEIS and Forest Plan indicates no significant impact on Indian lands within this jurisdiction. We note, however, that the list of parties to whom copies of the DEIS were sent does not include the Eastern Nevada Agency, BIA, P.O. Box 28, Elko, NV 89832, the Shoshone-Paiute Business Council of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation, P.O. Box 219, Owyhee, NV 89832 (adjacent to the Mountain City RD) or the Tribal Council of the Te-Moak Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada, 525 Sunset Street, Elko, NV 89801 (adjacent to the Ruby Management area). The Eastern Nevada Agency has BIA administrative jurisdiction over the above reservations. We suggest these offices be added to your mailing list and be sent notices of any actions within the Humboldt National Forest that may impact their interests. 121-42

Forest solid-waste disposal practices should be addressed. The DEIS and Plan should discuss the potential for ground-water and surface-water impacts from dumps and landfills located on the Forest. The discussion should include constraints on the location and operation of such facilities, including ground-water monitoring. 121-43

RESPONSES

121-39 We appreciate your suggestion on sign components. The reference to redwood has been deleted in the Final Plan.

121-40 It is standard operating procedure that mineral exploration occurs only on existing, valid, mining claims.

121-41 That portion of Wheeler Peak Scenic Area located within the Highland Ridge Roadless Area was added to the wilderness recommendation for the Bristlecone Area.

121-42 We have added these offices to our Forest Plan mailing list.

121-43 The Humboldt National Forest does not operate a solid waste disposal facility. Solid waste collected is disposed of off the Forest in county or municipal landfills.

Constraints on the location and operation of such facilities already exist in the laws, regulations, guidelines, and executive orders for solid waste recovery, collection, and disposal.

The potential for the development of a solid waste disposal site on the Forest is minimal.

11 121

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We request that the above comments be given due consideration and do appreciate the opportunity to comment on the subject DEIS and Plan.

Sincerely,

Patricia Sanderson Port
Regional Environmental Officer

ccs: Director, OEPR (w/orig. incoming)
Reg. Dir., NPS
Reg. Hydrologist, GS
Reg. Dir., BLM
Reg. Dir., BM
Reg. Dir., FWS
Reg. Dir., BIA

SEP 26 1985

September 26, 1985 #122

Dan Baird, District Ranger
Ruby Mountains Ranger District
Humboldt National Forest

Dear Dan,

In reviewing the Humboldt National Forest Plan, I did not see where it mentioned the maximum number of Outfitter Guides that would be permitted to operate on the Forest at any one time. I would like this addressed in the Forest Plan. 122-1

Sincerely,

Paul Bottari

Paul Bottari
Outfitter Guide
Wells, Nevada

RESPONSES

122-1 Outfitter-guide permits are not limited to a certain number in any area. However, on several management areas, management direction calls for limiting summer and fall outfitter-guide permits to those existing unless a need can be demonstrated to issue new permits.

Rather than limit the number of permits to a specific number we prefer to retain flexibility and manage outfitter-guide permits to protect the resource and meet the public needs.

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9-20-85
#123

Dear Sir,

As a concerned citizen, I'm writing you in support of the Sierra Club efforts to save the wilderness Areas. I urge you to consider & support their proposal. | 123-1

Thank you

Kerry Rose

123-1 Please refer to response number 4-2.

124 COMMENTS

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#124

vtn nevada
2300 PASEO DEL PRADO, BUILDING A, SUITE 100
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89102 PHONE: (702) 873-7550

September 24, 1985

This letter is being written to convey the importance of passing the Nevada Wilderness Bill as proposed by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness - 21 areas, 1.5 million acres representing only 2% of Nevada land which releases 2.1 million acres for other uses. 124-1

As a civil engineer I am more than aware of the need for roads, dams, mining and other public work projects. These projects are necessary to maintain the standard of living which we have become accustomed to.

I am equally aware of the need to maintain areas of varying ecosystems in a pristine state. Without these areas we can expect to lessen the quality of life.

I cannot express in words the emotions I feel when traveling in one of these areas. Whether hiking, cross country skiing, or seeing an area from a distant view, we need regions where man can go, himself or in his mind, and be alone. Just knowing that if the need arises a journey can be made into an area untouched by mankind is solice in itself.

These tracts of land are excellent living and breeding grounds for hundreds of species of flora and fauna. Man cannot live without a balanced ecosystem. It is tantamount to our very survival.

The acquisition of these 21 areas is the only rational and sober resolution to take in achieving a healthy environment for ourselves and our children.

Very truly yours,

Vicki J. Scharnhorst

Vicki J. Scharnhorst
Project Engineer

RESPONSES

124-1 Please refer to response number 4-2.

125 COMMENTS

SEP 27 1985

#125

Thomas H. Slone
4824 Webster St.
Oakland, CA 94303

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear M. Graves:

I am writing to you in support of wilderness in the Humboldt National Forest.

Specifically, I strongly support: 54,000 acres of Jarbridge Additions, including Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek and the land west of St. Mary's River; 12,500 acres for Elk Mountain; 80,000 acres for Santa Rosa; 150,000 acres for Ruby Mountains, including the northern portion of the range; 30,000 acres for East Humboldt, including the purchase of private lands in Acker Basin; 23,000 for Pearl Peak; 120,000 acres for South Schell; 98,000 acres for Mount Moriah; 120,000 for Wheeler Peak, including the Highland ridge; 49,000 acres for Currant Mountain; 60,000 acres for Grant Range; and 95,000 for Quinn Canyon Range. I am particularly concerned that Bristlecone Pines be given adequate protection in the Wheeler Peak, Pearl Peak and Currant Mountain areas. I am also opposed to the construction and reconstruction of roads in and near roadless areas. Additionally, I am highly supportive of wilderness status for Elk Mountain, Santa Rosa, Ruby Mountains, East Humboldt, South Schell, Mount Moriah and Grant Range because of both their excellent scenic values and their excellent fishing and hunting.

125-1
thru
125-14

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Slone

Thomas H. Slone
9/24/85

RESPONSES

125-1	Please refer to response number 8-5.
125-2	Please refer to response number 8-11.
125-3	Please refer to response number 8-12.
125-4	Please refer to response number 8-4.
125-5	In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.
125-6	It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.Please refer to response number 193-109.
125-7	Please refer to response number 61-7.
125-8	Please refer to response number 8-2.
125-9	Please refer to response number 8-1.
125-10	Please refer to response number 8-3.
125-11	Please refer to response number 14-11.
125-12	Please refer to response number 8-7.
125-13	Please refer to response number 14-15.
125-14	Please refer to response number 14-14.

126 COMMENTS

SEP 27 1985

L126

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor

Humboldt National Forest

976 Mountain City Highway

Elko, Nevada 89801

9--23--85

Dear Mr. Graves:

126-1 It has come to my attention that the future disposition of many acres of the Humboldt N.F. will be planned out soon. Specifically, I refer to the roadless areas which are being considered for some degrees of development and/or mining use. Please see the enclosed list for details; I'm sure you've seen it before, but this is a convenient way to communicate my feelings on the matter.

In short, I support complete and total protection of all wilderness and roadless areas. In other words, no mining claims (except non-disruptive surface mining on a small scale by private citizens), no use of the lands by cattle, and no timber harvesting. No roads, and as much protection for the ecological systems as possible. Promotion, if financially feasible, of the value of the land for hiking and non-motorized sightseeing.

Unlike most U.S. citizens, I am fairly well acquainted with the marvelous mountain areas of Nevada. In my opinion, these mountain ranges of the Great Basin are one of the more remarkable assets of this nation. It would be most unreasonable not to give them full legal and practical protection, in order that they may preserved in their natural state.

I also support the designation of all National Forest lands as wilderness areas, free from all commercial development.

Thank you for your time.

Richard K Moser

Richard K. Moser
415 W. Ridgecrest Blvd., #49
Ridgecrest, California 93555

RESPONSES

126-1 **Please refer to response number 4-2.**

#127

SEP [illegible] 1985

September 25, 1985

B. J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Re: Recommendations for Humboldt Forest Management Plan

Dear Mr. Graves:

I write to make the following recommendations concerning wilderness designation in the named areas. Each of these areas contains excellent recreation and wildlife values, and should be designated wilderness in its entirety:

1) Quinn Canyon Range

You should designate 95,000 acres in this area as recommended in RARE II. 127-1

2) Elk Mountain

The game and fish abundant in this area would be protected by a 12,500 acre wilderness designation. 127-2

3) Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone)

USFS should include 120,000 acres of Wheeler Park in its proposal, including the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake. 127-3

4) South Schell

The recreational opportunities here deserve protection in a 120,000-acre wilderness. 127-4

5) Ruby Mountains

You should enlarge your proposal to include the northern portion of the range for a total of 150,000 acres. 127-5

6) Santa Rosa

This area has excellent trout fishing. Please protect 80,000 acres. 127-6

127-1 Please refer to response number 8-7.

127-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

127-3 Please refer to response number 8-1.

127-4 Please refer to response number 61-7.

127-5 Please refer to response number 8-4.

127-6 Please refer to response number 8-12.

127 CONT. COMMENTS

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B. J. Graves
September 25, 1985
Page Two

7) Currant Mountain (Duckwater)

The bighorn sheep here need a large habitat; 49,000 acres would be appropriate. 127-7

8) Mount Moriah

The excellent trout streams here deserve protection in a 98,000-acre wilderness. 127-8

9) Pearl Peak

Bristlecone pine stands here provide excellent wildlife habitat; 23,000 acres should be protected. 127-9

10) East Humboldt

Private land in the Acker Basin should be purchased and 30,000 acres included in the wilderness. 127-10

11) Grant Range

The recommended boundaries should be enlarged to include 60,000 acres and thereby provide greater protection for the bighorn population. 127-11

12) Jarbridge Mountains

You should increase your recommendation to include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and the country west of St. Mary's River, for a total of 54,000 acres. 127-12

Thank you for allowing me to comment on wilderness recommendations for these areas. In all cases, the maximum number of acres should be preserved as wilderness.

Sincerely,

Marc Francis

Marc Francis
151 Ashbury Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

RESPONSES

127-7 Please refer to response number 8-3.

127-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

127-9 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

127-10 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

127-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

127-12 Please refer to response number 8-5.

SEP 27 1985

128

6820 Groveview Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89103
September 21, 1985

B. J. Graves
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mtn. City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

I am writing to ask you for strong support of a Nevada Wilderness bill. I am a member of Friends of Nevada Wilderness and feel we have a reasonable proposal for 21 areas, 2.1 million acres, representing only 2% of Nevada land. 128-1 I am especially interested in taking my family hiking and camping in the Ruby Mountains. It is imperative that this and the other areas be saved for future generations. 128-2 A short trip into the wilderness gives one inspiration and a renewed sense of the value of life here in Nevada. I believe a comprehensive Nevada Wilderness Bill must be passed.

Sincerely yours,

Kathleen B. Bell

Kathleen B. Bell

Member Friends of Nevada Wilderness
League of Women Voters, State Secretary

128-1 **Please refer to response number 4-2.**

128-2 **Please refer to response number 8-4.**

129 COMMENTS

129
9/22/85
San Jose, Ca.

SEP 27 1985

Dear Sir,

Would you please consider the folling recommendations for wilderness areas in Humbolt National Forest.

1.- Jarbidge Additions - recommendation to include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and the country west of St. Mary's River for a total of some 54,000 acres 129-1

2.- Elk Mountain - recommend 12,500 acres. 129-2

3.- Santa Rosa - recommend some 80,000 acres of this remote country. 129-3

4.- Ruby Mountains - enlarged to include the northern portion of the range for a total of 150,000 acres. 129-4

5.- East Humbolt - Private land in Acker Basin should be acquired by direct purchase and 30,000 acres recommended for wilderness protection. 129-5

6.- Pearl Peak - extended to the southeast for a total of 23,000 acres. 129-6

7.- South Schell - 120,000 acres of this magnificent wilderness and recreational resource should be supported for wilderness designation. 129-7

8.- Mount Moriah - expand proposal to 129-8

RESPONSES

129-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

129-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

129-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

129-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

129-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

129-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

129-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

129-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

- 2. -

SEP 27 1985

include the southeast portion of the roadless area for a total of 98,000 acres.

9.- Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone) – include the Highland Ridge of this magnificent wilderness and urged to designate 120,000 acres, including the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake. 129-9

10.- Currant Mountain (Duckwater) – Urge that 49,000 acres be given wilderness protection. 129-10

11.- Grant Range – The boundaries should be expanded to include 60,000 acres and thereby provide greater protection for the sheep population. 129-11

12.- Quinn Canyon Range – Urge that 95,000 acres be designated. 129-12

I Thank You,
Donald S. Peck
3345 Mather Drive,
San Jose, Calif. 95116

129-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

129-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

129-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

129-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

SEP [illegible] 1985

130

CHERI CINKOSKE
816 Lillis
N. Las Vegas, NV 89030
(702) 642-7238

September 24, 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the General Management Plan for the Humboldt National Forest. In a way, it's a shame that the Plans for both the Toiyabe and the Humboldt had to come out at the same time. They are both such massive documents that I have not had the time to review them in as great detail as I would have liked. I will therefore limit myself to comments on wilderness management proposed in your Plan, except for the following three general comments:

1. This forest offers immense recreational and wildlife values. As Nevada's population grows, there is an increasing demand for recreational opportunity on the public lands. It is important to respond to this need. 130-1

2. "Standards and Guidelines" for special protection of the Bristlecone Pine should be enforced. These plants are the oldest living things on earth. After thousands of years, we have no right to destroy them in our lifetime. 130-2

3. Construction or reconstruction of roads in or near roadless areas must not be allowed to occur. National studies have shown that the taxpayer is subsidizing the forest industry, that what the Treasury receives for forest purchase comes nowhere near equalling the cost of roads constructed. It is vital that this not be allowed to continue! 130-3

I applaud your recommendations for wilderness for the Jarbidge Additions, the Ruby Mountains, Mt. Moriah, and the Grant Range. However, I feel that in each instance your recommendation of acreage is insufficient to properly protect these areas. The Jarbidge Additions would be a worthy addition to our only presently designated wilderness. I would like to see your recommendation here increased to include Camp Creek, the 130-4 headwaters of Canyon Creek, and the country west of St. Mary's River. In the Ruby Mountains, a larger proposal is needed to 130-5 include the northern portion of the range. This area is classic alpine wilderness and ranks with the best that other states have to offer; it should be designated as wilderness and protected as 130-6 such. The Mt. Moriah area also needs additional acreage, to

RESPONSES

130-1 The Land Management Plan for the Humboldt National Forest addresses the issue of an increasing population's demands for more recreational opportunities on the Forest. The various alternatives describe different levels of management for developed and dispersed recreation opportunities. The Preferred Alternative would maintain current developed facility capacity and would improve opportunities for dispersed recreation.

130-2 Please refer to response number 14-15.

130-3 Please refer to response number 14-14.

130-4 Please refer to response number 8-5.

130-5 Please refer to response number 8-4.

130-6 Please refer to response number 8-2.

COMMENTS

130

include the southeast portion of the roadless area. The Grant Range proposal quite rightfully includes Troy Peak and protects part of this area containing over 200 species of wildflowers, a dozen tree species and desert bighorn sheep. However, additional acreage, a total of about 60,000 acres, should be designated to provide greater protection for the sheep herd. 130-7

I especially applaud the designation of wilderness in the South Snake Range. Wheeler Peak, at 13,000 feet, is the second highest mountain in Nevada and unique in our state because of a small glacier on its north face. The extensive Bristlecone Pine forests and numerous peaks above 11,500 feet create a truly spectacular wilderness area. However, your proposal fails to include the magnificent Highland Ridge area. I would like to see a wilderness of some 120,000 acres, including the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake. 130-8

I am quite perturbed, however, at your omission of several worthy wilderness areas. These are Elk Mountain (a sportsman's paradise where wildlife will be greatly served by wilderness designation), 130-9
the Santa Rosa Mountains (with the headwaters of both the Quinn and Little Humboldt Rivers, a large raptor population and excellent trout fishing), 130-10
the East Humboldt (with dozens of lakes--where private land in Acker Basin should be acquired by direct purchase and made part of the wilderness), 130-11
Pearl Peak (with bristlecone pine and extensive wildlife), the South Schell, Currant Mountain (important for bristlecone pine, bighorn sheep and mule deer), and the Quinn Canyon Range (formerly recommended by you for wilderness--and it hasn't changed). 130-12 130-13 130-14 130-15

If these areas are not currently designated as wilderness, all protection for them will cease. Ten or 15 years from now, when we again review the forest plans, it will be too late to protect them as their wilderness characteristics will probably have been destroyed.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment. I hope that all of these spectacular wilderness areas will be designated and managed as wilderness. Nevada deserves the best, for we have the best.

Sincerely,

Cheri Cinkoske

Cheri Cinkoske

RESPONSES

130-7	Please refer to response number 14-11.
130-8	Please refer to response number 8-1.
130-9	Please refer to response number 8-11.
130-10	Please refer to response number 8-12.
130-11	In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.
130-12	It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.
130-13	Please refer to response number 61-7.
130-14	Please refer to response number 8-3.
130-15	Please refer to response number 8-7.

131 COMMENTS RESPONSES

SEP 27 1985

#131 SEPT. 23-85

MR. Sal Tromba · Family

2321 FLORAL

SELMA, CALIFORNIA
93662

DEAR MR. GRAVES, FOREST SUPERVISOR

WE LIKE TO ADD THIS QUOTE BY MR. WALLACE STEGNER.

QUOTE → "SOMETHING WILL HAVE GONE OUT OF US AS A PEOPLE IF WE EVER LET THE REMAINING WILDERNESS BE DESTROYED... IF WE POLLUTE THE LAST CLEAN AIR AND DIRTY THE LAST CLEAN STREAMS AND PUSH OUR PAVED ROADS THROUGH THE LAST OF THE SILENCE."

THANK YOU MR. GRAVES

NOW IS OUR CHANCE TO SAVE THE WILDERNESS. THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST IS A VAST, DIVERSE AND DRAMATIC NATIONAL FOREST IN EASTERN AND NORTHERN NEVADA. 131-1

CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION OF ROADS IN OR NEAR ROADLESS AREAS MUST BE OPPOSED! 131-2 THANK YOU Mr. Sal Tromba Family

131-1 Please refer to response number 4-2.

131-2 Please refer to response number 14-14.

SEP 27 1985

JJ 130

The Elko County Farm Bureau

Serving the Agriculture of Elko County

September 24, 1985

Elko County Farm Bureau's Comments
on the 1985 Forest Service EIS and Proposed Forest Plan

We notice that throughout the Forest Plan, a reduction in livestock use is indicated. Historically reductions in livestock use have been the primary method of improving the range on National Forest Lands. We suggest you put more emphases on using livestock as the primary tool in managing resources and become more involved in educating the Public as to its benefits. 132-1

We would also like Forest Service Personnel to be more aware of the ture cost of running livestock on Public Lands. Fencing the range has not reduced the amount of riding required as many might think. We move cattle more often, drive them farther to the outside pastures, and spend a great deal more time seeing that we do not leppy any calves. Today we are running 50% less cattle on the Forest lands than we did in the 1950's, yet we take care of the network of fences that was not there in the 1950's. 132-2

Fencing has helped by decreasing competition for feed between permittees and enabling managers to rest given areas periodically, but on the other hand fences have caused problems too. As an example, where fences cross a creek, stream bank erosion often begins.

Too often when fencing a country, natural watering areas are fenced out, necessitating the development of pipe lines and water developments, which means more maintenance costs for permittees. If a pasture is rested for a year, the permittee is still required to maintain the fence. 132-3

We know now that the Non-Fee cost of running livestock on Public Lands is between $6.00 and $12.00 per AUM. We would like you people to be more aware of these costs and help keep them down. One great help would be to bill us at the end of the grazing season.

We don't believe enought is known about all that contributes to a deteriorating Reparian area, or methods of improving these areas. Nor do we believe the Country can afford expensive studies. We suggest the Forest Service employees and Ranchers keep their eyes open for places where desired conditions are occuring and then try to analyse what is taking place. 132-4

We do feel that uncontroled beaver populations lead to nearly total distraction of large vegetative species on many drainages. Then when the beaver move out and the dams rot, the next problem is stream bank erosion.

RESPONSES

132-1 The Preferred Alternative (K), as depicted on Table II-13-A and B Chapter II of the FEIS, shows increases in virtually all resource values and outputs. While there may be an initial reduction in livestock use as allotment management plans are implemented on areas with possible stocking problems, livestock use is projected to increase over the course of the planning period. Livestock will continue to be an important tool in managing rangeland resources.

132-2 The demands on National Forest system lands have increased dramatically in recent years and will continue to do so as the American public expects more from the same unit of land. Increased outputs can be realized only through intensive land management. All resource users and managers are experiencing change as land management efforts intensify. Each user group is most familiar with and sensitive to the changes impacting them. Forest Service employees are aware of these changes and impacts. Your cooperation is a vital part of the planning and work that will continue on the Forest. You can continue to be a very important part of this process, especially as an on-the-ground expert, when projects are proposed in an area you have expertise in.

132-3 Your concern about end of season billing for livestock grazing use is a matter unrelated to the Forest planning process. Billing regulations and policy may change in the future, but not as a result of this planning effort.

132-4 Riparian area management is emerging as a public issue. Some projects to improve the condition of selected riparian areas in need of improvement are scheduled. Existing range survey methods and examinations are sufficient to document the condition of most riparian areas. Totally new inventories for riaparian area management are not anticipated. Appropriate management emphasis will be focused on areas on an as-needed basis regardless of the cause. Through this course of action riparian area management is directed toward achieving and maintaining satisfactory ecological conditions.

We agree that fencing of riparian areas is not always the answer. A standard in the Forest-wide section states, "Fencing as a management tool to totally exclude livestock will be utilized only when no other alternatives are practical."

Fencing is evaluated and included in the allotment management plan which is formulated in conjunction with the permittee.

132 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

SEP [illegible] 1985

#132

Elko County Farm Bureau's Comments
on the 1985 Forest Service EIS and Proposed Forest Plan
Page 2

Comments			Responses
We feel that the Forest Service should promote improved reparian area management rather than dictating it, and if any reparian areas are fenced it should be done as an experiment and in cooperation with permittees that want to participate.	132-4		
We support exchanges of private and public land, but with a minimum of red tape and excessive studies. Land exchanges should be accomplished in a much shorter time period and at less cost to the private land owner and the government.	132-5	132-5	We agree that a land exhange process is time consuming and costly. However, a land exchange of publicly held land is an irreversible commitment of resources. A thorough evaluation of the lands that are exchanged is necessary to insure that the public's needs are met.
We are absolutely opposed to any more wilderness designation in the State of Nevada than is in the Senator Laxalt and Hecht, and Congressman Vucanovich Bill. Many of the areas within the Humboldt National Forest now have limited access. These areas should be used and appreciated for their wilderness characteristics. Why should your Agency be calling for more access and at the same time proposing designated wilderness when most objectives could be met by improving the trail system and completing some of the proposed trades.	132-6	132-6	Our recommendation for wilderness is based on public input, and the multiple-use concept. Actual designation of wildenress however, can only be made by Congress.
We feel that one of the biggest problems interfering with good resource management has been the lack of cooperation between the Department of Wildlife and Livestock permittees. When one or the other is left out of any planning process, bad feelings result. We suggest that both parties be contacted and given the opportunity to participate in all discussions or planning process involving any allotment. And that this type of practice be emphasised throughout the Forest Plan particularly under Range management and Riparian Management on pages IV-26 and IV-27.	132-7	132-7	It is the expressed desire of the Forest Service to have a coordinated effort on all plans and projects. Efforts are made to involve all interested parties in all stages of planning. This is mentioned in the Introduction in Chapter IV of the Forest Plan. All allotment management plans are developed based on input from the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the livestock permittee. If any plans have been approved without their input, it is because those parties chose not to participate.
Nevada Sheepmen are losing from 10% to 17% of their sheep each year to predators. We ask that you do everything you can to help keep their losses to a minimum.	132-8	132-8	Predator control is the responsibility of APHIS. The Forest Service supports predator control and works with APHIS in making recommendations on method of control and any special precautions needed on each allotment.
We support State control of Water Rights, and oppose water rights being usurped by the Federal Government.	132-9	132-9	The Forest Service position on water rights is that they will comply with State law regulating water rights. If the Forest Service determines that a water right is needed it applies to the State for the rights. The water rights are essential for protection of public uses of National Forest System Lands including livestock grazing.
The plan indicates approximately 53% of the range is unsuitable for livestock grazing. We feel suitability for livestock grazing should be determined by the cattle and sheep themselves. Practical experience has shown that water and forage availability determines range and suitability for livestock.	132-10	132-10	Please refer to response number 91-6.

COMMENTS

#132

SEP [illegible] 1985

Elko County Farm Bureau's Comments
on the 1985 Forest Service EIS and Proposed Forest Plan
Page 3

Wild Horse numbers need to be held at the 1971 level or lower. 132-11

Right-of-way access to Forest Service land should only be obtained upon approval of the Land owners with consideration for his concerns. 132-12

We object to Goal #31, and #34. There are other agencies inventorying and monitoring waters, why double the cost to taxpayers. Its a good place to cut your budget. 132-13

Goal #40: The Forest Service should not involve itself with inventorying or exploration of minerals. That is the purpose of a free mining industry. It costs the government very little. 132-14

We strongly support Goal #22, #23, and #24. Extensive insect infestations, predator control and noxious weed infestations should be given the same consideration as wild fire control. 132-15

Goal #30. Inventory of soil and water is a good place to cut your budget. These things should be postponed until the United States is again running in the Black. 132-16

Elko County Farm Bureau
Cliff Gardner, President

RESPONSES

132-11 Legislation specifies that wild horses shall be confined to territories established in 1971 and the population levels will be determined by considering the animals' habitat requirements, available forage, permitted livestock, and other uses of the area.

132-12 Rights-of-way are negotiated with land owners and purchased whenever possible. When a right-of-way is needed for administration of the National Forest and an agreement cannot be reached with the land owner, only then is the right of eminent domain exercised.

132-13 The word "continue" in Goal # 31, Objective A, indicates the inventory already exists. The inventory will be maintained and expanded as information is available. It is not a totally new inventory. The water quality objectives of Goal # 34 emphasize the responsibility of the Forest Service to protect and monitor water quality and quantity. While information from other sources is used now, the Forest Service will monitor water quality as needed.

132-14 Goal # 40 was misleading. The Forest Service does not extract minerals. Goal # 40 was rewritten to clarify the goal. Areas are inventoried for mineralization where a need exists. One of the areas where an inventory is required is on land transfers. The data collected helps us calculate the value of the land being traded.

132-15 We appreciate your support for goals 22, 23 and 24.

132-16 Soil is our basic resource. Without soil, most other resource values presently recognized would not exist. A soil inventory is vital in order to integrate projects with the inherent productivity of the land. The funds appropriated for soil and water inventory are miniscule. But, perhaps the most important consideration at this time is that the soils inventory for the Humboldt National Forest is virtually complete. Curtailing this activity would negate a significant investment. With inventories complete, more money is available for on-the-ground projects.

133 COMMENTS

SEP 30 1985

#133

RECEIVED
ELY RANGER DISTRICT
AUG 8 '85

August 6, 1985

Mr. Paul Demeule, District Ranger
Ely District, Humboldt National Forest
Ely, Nevada 89301

Dear Mr. Demeule;

We have reviewed your Draft Plan for management of the Moriah Division and offer, in behalf of the two livestock permitees on Mt. Moriah, the following suggestions for change to the plan relating to wilderness.

We understand that wilderness designation is intended to protect a natural area from becoming more "humanized", that it matters not whether the area is scenic but only that it be relatively natural and offers "outstanding opportunity for solitude.....", and that roads and unmanageable areas (those of relatively-easy access to motorcycles, snowmobiles, and other off-road vehicles) are not compatable with the wilderness use of the designated area. We also note that wilderness designation does not, in itself, preclude livestock grazing in the withdrawn area. After considering those two concepts together, we believe they conflict; any closure of roads will have an adverse impact on properly caring for livestock, and leaving the roads open will have an adverse impact on the wilderness experience. Therefore, we suggest modifying the boundaries of the proposed wilderness area to exclude roads and trails used by motor vehicles for managing livestock; such an exclusion would, we're sure, make the designation much more suitable for both livestock and wilderness users. 133-1 133-2

On the attached map we've drawn in a new proposed boundary in red; it is open-ended on the north because a large area on BLM which is suitable for wilderness runs off the map. We've shaded in blue the areas which are unmanageble due to ease of access by motor vehicles. And we've highlighted in yellow the roads and trails, some of which were overlooked in the existing inventory. Because of the small scale, the boundary is difficult to establish accurately; a closer look on the ground, with large-scale map in-hand, would more-closely define the real wilderness on Mt. Moriah. 133-3

Our Area #1, which lies on both BLM and USFS, should be deleted from the recommendation because it is detached by a machine-constructed and -maintained road used for livestock management, is less than 5000 acres in size, and is almost-totally traversible by motorcycle, snowmobile, and four-wheel vehicles.

RESPONSES

133-1 **Typically, when an area is designated as wilderness and existing roads are closed off to the general public, special provisions are made in the Term Grazing Permit to allow the permittee to continue using vehicles on roads he has traditionally used to properly care for his livestock and to maintain improvements. This eliminates the apparent conflict which you describe.**

133-2 **The boundary of the Mt. Moriah recommended wilderness is modified in the Final Plan to eliminate roaded areas.**

133-3 **Your input was considered while revising the boundaries of the Mt. Moriah recommended wilderness and several of the changes you suggest have been incorporated into the Final Plan and are shown on the Forest map.**

SEP 30 1985

#132

Page 2, Mr. Paul Demeule, August 6, 1985.

Area # 2 should be deleted from the recommendation because it covers a trail on the south which is used by four-wheel-drives and motorcycles for recreation and livestock management (from Timber Creek to Smith Creek), and it covers a road on the north (on Eck's Knoll) which is used by motorcycles and two- and four-wheel-drive pickups for livestock management, fence repair, and recreation. The area covers a sizeable chunk of wilderness in Timber Cr., Smith Cr., and Eck's Knoll which is unmanageable due to the shallow, relatively bare slopes accessible by motor vehicles.

Area #3 should be deleted from the recommendation because numerous roads and trails cross or intrude into the area and most of the area's topography is such that vehicular travel on the roads and trails is clearly visible and within earshot of the pristine islands within the area. Since so much of this area is open and of gentle slopes, motor vehicles do and will continue to travel off-road during hunting and sightseeing trips and in the management of livestock. To withdraw this area from motor vehicle use would constitute a significant negative impact to the traditional recreation and grazing use of the land within.

133-3 See response 133-3 above.

Area #4 should be deleted from the recommendation because it covers numerous roads and trails associated with mining and livestock grazing; much of this area is unmanageable due to ease of access by motor vehicles.

Areas #5 and #6 should be added to the recommendation because they are roadless in a literal sense, are manageable wilderness, and offer the opportunities anticipated by Congress in such designations; though they aren't so scenic, they are wild and untouched.

If adopted, our suggested boundary adjustments, we believe, will delineate a Moriah Wilderness Area of nearly incomparable quality; we support such a designation, for it would result in little negative impact to our livestock operations and would, indeed, preserve all the manageable wilderness on Mt. Moriah.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Eldridge

Dave Eldridge
for Moriah Ranches, Inc., Baker, Nevada.

Dennis H. Eldridge

Dennis Eldridge
for Geo. Eldridge & Son, Inc., Ely, Nevada.

w/attached map.

134 COMMENTS

SEP 30 1985

Brian Green
P.O. Box 775
Carlin, Nevada 89822

U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Forest Service
Humbolt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

September 28, 1985

Sirs,

I am writing in support of increasing the amount of wilderness designated lands in this area. As a resident of Elko County my remarks will pertain to and be contained to lands falling within the county boundry.

Regarding the Jarbidge area, I support the increases outlined in alternatives D, H,F, and K. 134-1 Regarding the Ruby Mountain area, I support the proposals that allow for the larger tracts of land to be set aside, such as alternatives A and C or even alternative J. 134-2

I have heard of some opposition to increasing the amount of wilderness lands within Elko County by some residents. I feel that the majority of this opposition is coming from those whom wish to make financial gains from public lands. One such example brought to my attention concerns a local business that airlifts skiers by helicopter into the Ruby Mountains. Under wilderness designation, this business could no longer operate. I have heard that this is the only such business of its kind in the country and I feel that some consideration and compromise and consideration can and should be made in this particular case. 134-3

I believe that consideration should be given to those wishing to see these lands preserved in their natural state rather than be recklessly destroyed for financial profits. Nevada and Elko County have large tracts of public land that is available for grazing, mining, and other forms of development and use. The Ruby Mountains and the Jarbidge area contain lands that so far are relatively untouched by development and roads. This land is very rugged and senic and used only by those wishing a quality experience. I feel it is important to protect these lands. The best way to protect them is through wilderness designation. 134-4

Sincerly,

Brian Green
Brian Green

RESPONSES

134-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

134-2 Please refer to response number 8-4.

134-3 The boundary for the recommended Ruby Mountain Wilderness has been modified to exclude the areas used by the Ruby Mountain heli-ski operation. We do not anticipate any conflicts between the recommended wilderness and the heli-ski operation.

134-4 Please refer to response number 4-2.

SEP 30 1985

9/29/85
135

Dear Mr. Graves,

I would very much appreciate my following comments on the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan be accepted for consideration.

My major concerns when commenting on the management plan are the following:

① lack of sufficient wilderness within the Humboldt National Forest 135-1 ② decline in recreational hunting as the result of a decline in the deer population 135-2 ③ decline in the quality of the riparian areas within the forest (which has a significant impact on number 2). 135-3

In ~~the~~ reviewing the various alternatives I feel that alternatives D, E, F, I and the preferred alternative K lack sufficient wilderness designation. Alternative A I feel deals with my concerns 135-1

135-1 Please refer to response number 4-2.

135-2 Your statement is incorrect. Nevada Department of Wildlife surveys show that the mule deer population in the State has almost doubled since 1975; the population has certainly not declined. Even with a quota system in effect for mule deer tags, the number of animals harvested has increased over the last decade.

135-3 Please refer to response number 86-13.

135 CONT. COMMENTS

SEP 30 1995

3

#134

1. East Humboldt 226/c — 135-5
2. Ruby Mtns North 227 — 135-6
3 Pearl Peak 228 — 135-7
4. Ruby Mountains 367 — 135-8
5. Jar bidge 372 — 135-9
6. Elk Mountain 374 — 135-10
7. Santa Rosa 229 — 135-11
8, North Schell 354 — 135-12
9. South Schell 355
10. Mount Moriah 352 — 135-13
11. Wheeler Peak 359 — 135-14
12. Quinn 360. — 135-15

Thank you very much for your time

ROY G. JONES M.D.
2085 Ruby View Drive
Elko, Nevada 89801

RESPONSES

135-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

135-6 Please refer to response number 8-4.

135-7 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

135-8 Please refer to response number 8-4.

135-9 Please refer to response number 8-5.

135-10 Please refer to response number 8-11.

135-11 Please refer to response number 8-12.

135-12 Please refer to response number 61-7.

135-13 Please refer to response number 8-2.

135-14 Please refer to response number 8-1.

135-15 Please refer to response number 8-7.

135 CONT. COMMENTS

SEP 30 1985 2 #134

most effectively however the number of areas recommended for wilderness (42) is excessive. Alternative J also contains more wilderness than necessary. Alternative K, the preferred alternative, seems to be one of status quo with respect to wildlife (especially deer) and contains too little wilderness area. In addition alternative K places emphasis on live stock production which would make maintenance of even status quo for wild life unlikely. 135-4

Overall I feel that alternate A is the most environmentally and economically sound plan and recommend that this alternative be adopted. As mentioned before the amount of wilderness suggested is excessive and would recommend that only the following areas be included within the wilderness:

RESPONSES

135-4 Please refer to response number 86-1.

136 COMMENTS

#136

SEP 30 1985

HCR 38 Box 553
Las Vegas, Nevada 89124
September 24, 1985

B. J. GRAVES, FOREST SUPERVISOR
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Supervisor Graves,

We strongly support wilderness protection for the areas of the Humboldt National Forest currently under consideration. We feel that a coservative approach to such decisions is best. Wilderness will provide for recreation, wildlife, and watershed protection. It will provide for the future, when adjustments will be made depending upon the technology and urgency of the needs then. Wilderness protection is reasonable, and causes no significant change in current patterns of use.

The following areas are of considerable importance, and must receive wilderness protection:

Include the northern portion of the RUBY MOUNTAINS for a total of 150,000 acres. This is one of the most beautiful places in all of Nevada, a place of gentle wilderness. 136-1

The BRISTLECONE trees and their environs of the WHEELER PEAK area need to include 120,000 acres for the protection of the fine examples of this most primeval of all our extant species of flora. Include, please, the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake. 136-2

PEARL PEAK south of Harrison Pass needs to be added to provide protection for the Bristlecone Pine and wildlife. Extend the boundary to the southeast for a total of about 23,000 acres. 136-3

MOUNT MORIAH, 98,000 acres should be set aside form this roadless area for wilderness. This is a rugged area of steep canyons and no significant conflicting potential uses. 136-4

The 120,000 acres of the Schell Creek Range, SOUTH SCHELL should receive protection as a wilderness resource for its recreational values. 136-5

CURRANT MOUNTAIN in the southern portion of the White Pine Range should include 49,000 acres as wilderness for the protection of Bristlecone pines and other flora and the bighorn sheep. 136-6

GRANT RANGE boundaries should be be expanded to include 60,000 acres for the protection of the bighorn population and the hundreds of flora species. 136-7

QUINN CANYON RANGE, 95,000 acres should be designated. This area was recommended for inclusion in RARE II and has had benn protected for over a decade. 136-8

For sportsmen ELK MOUNTAIN, a de facto wilderness needs wilderness protection. Include 12,500 acres. 136-9

SANTA ROSA, include 80,000 acres of this raptor habitat with excellent recreational and wildlife values. 136-10

JARBRIDGE ADDITIONS should total 54,000 acres, including the area west of St.Mary's River, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and Camp Creek. This is a logical extension of our only present wilderness, and would continue to provide for flora and fauna protection as well as recreation. 136-11

EAST HUMBOLDT where private holdings should be purchased and 30,000 acres set aside for wilderness. The many lakes of this area are 136-12

RESPONSES

136-1 Please refer to response number 8-4.

136-2 Please refer to response number 8-1.

136-3 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

136-4 Please refer to response number 8-2.

135-5 Please refer to response number 61-7.

136-6 Please refer to response number 8-3.

136-7 Please refer to response number 14-11.

136-8 Please refer to response number 8-7.

136-9 Please refer to response number 8-11.

136-10 Please refer to response number 8-12.

136-11 Please refer to response number 8-5.

136-12 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

136 CONT. COMMENTS

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significant for their scenic and wildlife values.

We are also in support of the proposed "STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES" for special protection of the BRISTLECONE PINE. 136-13

We strongly oppose road reconstruction or construction in or near roadless areas. 136-14

Your attention to these matters and the continuation of our western wilderness heritage is appreciated.

The only other negative comment we have is on another issue, we STRONGLY oppose the land interchange between USFS and BLM in any form. The public is being misled. 136-15

Sincerely,

L Haber

Liz and Bob Haber

RESPONSES

136-13 Please refer to response number 14-15.

136-14 Please refer to response number 14-14.

136-15 Thank you for your comment on the interchange proposal. Interchange between the Forest Service and BLM is beyond the scope of this planning document and cannot be addressed here.

137 COMMENTS

SEP 30 1985

#137

Box 538
Indian Springs, Nevada 89018
September 24, 1985

B. J. GRAVES, FOREST SUPERVISOR
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Supervisor Graves,

I strongly support wilderness protection for the areas of the Humboldt National Forest currently under consideration. I feel that a coservative approach to such decisions is best. Wilderness will provide for recreation, wildlife, and water [illegible] protection. It will provide for the future, when adjustments will be made depending upon the technology and urgency of the needs then. Wilderness protection is reasonable, and causes no significant change in current patterns of use. 137-1

The following areas are of considerable importance, and must receive wilderness protection:

Include the northern portion of the RUBY MOUNTAINS for a total of 150,000 acres. This is one of the most beautiful places in all of Nevada, a place of gentle wilderness. 137-2

The BRISTLECONE trees and their environs of the WHEELER PEAK area need to include 120,000 acres for the protection of the fine examples of this most primeval of all our extant species of flora. Include, please, the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake. 137-3

PEARL PEAK south of Harrison Pass needs to be added to provide protection for the Bristlecone Pine and wildlife. Extend the boundary to the southeast for a total of about 23,000 acres. 137-4

MOUNT MORIAH, 98,000 acres should be set aside form this roadless area for wilderness. This is a rugged area of steep canyons and no significant conflicting potential uses. 137-5

The 120,000 acres of the Schell Creek Range, SOUTH SCHELL should receive protection as a wilderness resource for its recreational values. 137-6

CURRANT MOUNTAIN in the southern portion of the White Pine Range should include 49,000 acres as wilderness for the protection of Bristlecone pines and other flora and the bighorn sheep. 137-7

GRANT RANGE boundaries should be be expanded to include 60,000 acres for the protection of the bighorn population and the hundreds of flora species. 137-8

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For sportsmen ELK MOUNTAIN, a de facto wilderness needs wilderness protection. Include 12,500 acres. 137-10

SANTA ROSA, include 80,000 acres of this raptor habitat with excellent recreational and wildlife values. 137-11

JARBRIDGE ADDITIONS should total 54,000 acres, including the area west of St.Mary's River, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and Camp Creek. This is a logical extension of our only present wilderness, and would continue to provide for flora and fauna protection as well as recreation. 137-12

EAST HUMBOLDT where private holdings should be purchased and 137-13

RESPONSES

137-1 Please refer to response number 8-2.

137-2 Please refer to response number 8-4.

137-3 Please refer to response number 8-1.

137-4 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderne designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitud and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that t Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity f primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

137-5 Please refer to response number 8-2.

137-6 Please refer to response number 61-7.

137-7 Please refer to response number 8-3.

137-8 Please refer to response number 14-11.

137-9 Please refer to response number 8-7.

137-10 Please refer to response number 8-11.

137-11 Please refer to response number 8-12.

137-12 Please refer to response number 8-5.

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SEP 30 1985

30,000 acres set aside for wilderness. The many lakes of this area are significant for their scenic and wildlife values.

I am also in support of the proposed "STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES" for special protection of the BRISTLECONE PINE. 137-14 I strongly oppose road reconstruction or construction in or near roadless areas. 137-15 Your attention to these matters and the continuation of our western wilderness heritage is appreciated.

The only other negative comment that I have is on another issue, I STRONGLY oppose the land interchange between USFS and BLM in any form. The public is being misled. 137-16

Sincerely,

J. S. Brauer

J. S. Brauer

137-14 Please refer to response number 14-15.

137-15 Please refer to response number 14-14.

137-16 Please refer to response number 136-15.

138 COMMENTS

SEP 30 1985

#138

4904 Chantilly
Las Vegas
Nevada 89110
September 25, 1985

B. J. GRAVES, FOREST SUPERVISOR
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Supervisor Graves,

I strongly support wilderness protection for the areas of the Humboldt National Forest currently under consideration. I feel that a conservative approach to such decisions is best. Wilderness will provide for recreation, wildlife, and watershed protection. It will provide for the future, when adjustments will be made depending upon the technology and urgency of the needs then. Wilderness protection is reasonable, and causes no significant change in current patterns of use. 138-1

The following areas are of considerable importance, and must receive wilderness protection:

Include the northern portion of the RUBY MOUNTAINS for a total of 150,000 acres. This is one of the most beautiful places in all of Nevada, a place of gentle wilderness. 138-2

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CURRANT MOUNTAIN in the southern portion of the White Pine Range should include 47,000 acres as wilderness for the protection of Bristlecone pines and other flora and the bighorn sheep. 138-7

GRANT RANGE boundaries should be be expanded to include 40,000 acres for the protection of the bighorn population and the hundreds of flora species. 138-8

QUINN CANYON RANGE, 95,000 acres should be designated. This area was recommended for inclusion in RARE II and has had been protected for over a decade. 138-9

For sportsmen ELK MOUNTAIN, a de facto wilderness needs wilderness protection. Include 12,500 acres. 138-10

SANTA ROSA, include 80,000 acres of this raptor habitat with excellent recreational and wildlife values. 138-11

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EAST HUMBOLDT where private holdings should be purchased and 30,000 acres set aside for wilderness. The many lakes of this area are significant for their scenic and wildlife values. 138-13

I am also in support of the proposed "STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES" for special protection of the BRISTLECONE PINE. 138-14 I strongly oppose road reconstruction or construction in or near roadless areas. Roads are difficult to get away from as they already lace too much of our state, and many are without any valid reason save whim or expediency. 138-15 Your attention to these matters and the continuation of our western wilderness heritage is appreciated.

The only other negative comment that I have is on another issue. I STRONGLY oppose the land interchange between USFS and BLM in any form. The public is being misled. 138-16

Very Truly Yours,

Ed Carroll

RESPONSES

138-1 Please refer to response number 8-2.

138-2 Please refer to response number 8-4.

138-3 Please refer to response number 8-1.

138-4 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

138-5 Please refer to response number 8-2.

138-6 Please refer to response number 61-7.

138-7 Please refer to response number 8-3.

138-8 Please refer to response number 14-11.

138-9 Please refer to response number 8-7.

138-10 Please refer to response number 8-11.

138-11 Please refer to response number 8-12.

138-12 Please refer to response number 8-5.

138-13 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

138-14 Please refer to response number 14-15.

138-15 Please refer to response number 14-14.

138-16 Please refer to response number 136-15.

139 COMMENTS

SEP 3

# 139

Spring Mountain Orchards
Post Office Box 268
Indian Springs, Nevada
89018 USA
(702) 879-3376

24 September 1985

B. J. GRAVES, FOREST SUPERVISOR
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Supervisor Graves,

I strongly support wilderness protection for the areas of the Humboldt National Forest currently under consideration. I feel that a coservative approach to such decisions is best. Wilderness will provide for recreation, wildlife, and watershed protection. It will provide for the future, when adjustments will be made depending upon the technology and urgency of the needs then. Wilderness protection is reasonable, and causes no significant change in current patterns of use. 139-1

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The only other negative comment that I have is on another issue, I STRONGLY oppose the land interchange between USFS and BLM. I feel that the public is not being listened to on this issue and that we are being fed a lot of horse leavings as to its real intent. The proposed savings are miniscule in national terms, if they could ever be realizied, which I doubt. 139-16

Very Truly,

Jim Brauer
Jim Brauer

RESPONSES

139-1 Please refer to response number 4-2.

139-2 Please refer to response number 8-4.

139-3 Please refer to response number 8-1.

139-4 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

139-5 Please refer to response number 8-2.

139-6 Please refer to response number 61-7.

139-7 Please refer to response number 8-3.

139-8 Please refer to response number 14-11.

139-9 Please refer to response number 8-7.

139-10 Please refer to response number 8-11.

139-11 Please refer to response number 8-12.

139-12 Please refer to response number 8-5.

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139-14 Please refer to response number 14-15.

139-15 Please refer to response number 14-14.

139-16 Please refer to response number 136-15.

140 COMMENTS

SEP 30 1985

#140

Box 206
Indian Springs, Nevada 89018
September 25, 1985

R. J. GRAVES, FOREST SUPERVISOR
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Supervisor Graves,

I strongly support wilderness protection for the areas of the Humboldt National Forest currently under consideration. I feel that a coservative approach to such decisions is best. Wilderness will provide for recreation, wildlife, and watershed protection. It will provide for the future, when adjustments will be made depending upon the technology and urgency of the needs then. Wilderness protection is reasonable, and causes no significant change in current patterns of use. 140-1

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CURRANT MOUNTAIN in the southern portion of the White Pine Range should include 47,000 acres as wilderness for the protection of Bristlecone pines and other flora and the bighorn sheep. 140-7

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QUINN CANYON RANGE, 95,000 acres should be designated. This area was recommended for inclusion in RARE II and has had been protected for over a decade. 140-9

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EAST HUMBOLDT where private holdings should be purchased and 30,000 acres set aside for wilderness. The many lakes of this area are significant for their scenic and wildlife values. 140-13

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The only other negative comment that I have is on another issue, I STRONGLY oppose the land interchange between USFS and BLM in any form. The public is being misled. 140-16

Very Truly Yours,

H. C. Jordan
H. C. Jordan

RESPONSES

140-1 Please refer to response number 4-21.

140-2 Please refer to response number 8-4.

140-3 Please refer to response number 8-1.

140-4 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

140-5 Please refer to response number 8-2.

140-6 Please refer to response number 61-7.

140-7 Please refer to response number 8-3.

140-8 Please refer to response number 14-11.

140-9 Please refer to response number 8-7.

140-10 Please refer to response number 8-11.

140-11 Please refer to response number 8-12.

140-12 Please refer to response number 8-5.

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140-14 Please refer to response number 14-15.

140-15 Please refer to response number 14-14.

140-16 Please refer to response number 136-15.

SEP 30 1985

#141

Box 268
Indian Springs, Nevada 89018
September 25, 1985

B. J. GRAVES, FOREST SUPERVISOR
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Supervisor Graves,

I strongly support wilderness protection for the areas of the Humboldt
National Forest currently under consideration. I feel that a
coservative approach to such decisions is best. Wilderness will 141-1
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area need to include 120,000 acres for the protection of the fine 141-3
examples of this most primeval of all our extant species of flora.
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Lake.
PEARL PEAK south of Harrison Pass needs to be added to provide 141-4
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For sportsmen ELK MOUNTAIN, a de facto wilderness needs 141-10
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protection as well as recreation.
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and many are without any valid reason save whim or expediency. Your
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wilderness heritage is appreciated.

The only other negative comment that I have is on another issue. I 141-16
STRONGLY oppose the land interchange between USFS and BLM in any form.
The public is being misled.

Very Truly
Yours,
Ann B. Brauer
Ann B. Brauer

141-1	Please refer to response number 4-2.
141-2	Please refer to response number 8-4.
141-3	Please refer to response number 8-1.
141-4	It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.
141-5	Please refer to response number 8-2.
141-6	Please refer to response number 61-7.
141-7	Please refer to response number 8-3.
141-8	Please refer to response number 14-11.
141-9	Please refer to response number 8-7.
141-10	Please refer to response number 8-11.
141-11	Please refer to response number 8-12.
141-12	Please refer to response number 8-5.
141-13	In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.
141-14	Please refer to response number 14-15.
141-15	Please refer to response number 14-18.
141-16	Please refer to response number 136-15.

SEP 30 1985

#142

The Nature Conservancy

Utah Public Lands Protection Planning
2225 South Highway 89-91
Wellsville, Utah 84339
(801) 752-4154

September 26, 1985

Mr. B. J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the Proposed Forest Plan (PFP). In the past several years my work has taken me onto the Humboldt a number of times. I welcome this chance to be involved in the planning which will guide the future direction of the Humboldt National Forest.

The Nature Conservancy's mission is to preserve natural biological diversity, by identifying and protecting examples of the full array of ecosystems and species in the natural world. We are focusing our resources on those communities and species which are rarest or most in need of protection.

Working with the best scientific information available, the Conservancy has found that most of these natural communities and rare species in the west occur on federally-administered lands. This is not surprising, because the majority of land in the west is owned by the federal government. My goal is to work with the Forest Service and other land-management agencies, to assure the maintenance of specific natural areas and rare species on lands which these agencies administer.

The Conservancy has taken two approaches in its work with the Forest Service. Under a series of Cooperative Agreements, we have assisted the Forest Service with certain tasks involving the designation of Research Natural Areas. We are also participating in the Forest planning process, realizing that decisions which affect natural areas and rare species will be made through that process.

My comments in the remainder of this letter will focus specifically on the Conservancy's two main topics of interest with regard to the Humboldt National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan: 1) Research Natural Areas, and 2) endangered, threatened and sensitive species.

(p. 2)

National Office, 1800 North Kent Street, Arlington, Virginia 22209

[illegible]

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Research Natural Areas

Research Natural Areas (RNA's) are an excellent means of protecting the natural values inherent in some of the relict remnants of the landscape. The Forest Service recognizes the value of RNA's as baseline areas for monitoring management practices, and as scientific reference areas for studying ecological systems. RNA's are usually established to include undisturbed examples of common types of communities. However, RNA's may also protect unusual or uncommon types of habitats.

To date, most of my work has centered on the location and inventory of potential RNA's on National Forests in Utah and Nevada. Under three Cooperative Agreements with the Forest Service, the most recent being Supplement Number 22-C-5-INT-59, the Conservancy is assisting Region Four and the Intermountain Station in this RNA establishment process.

In 1983 and 1984, I investigated five potential RNA sites on the Humboldt National Forest. As mentioned on page IV-43 of the DEIS, the Forest Service's Intermountain RNA Committee and I concur that all five of these sites are initially qualified for RNA candidacy.

I fully support your identification of all five areas as RNA candidates in most of the alternatives addressed in the DEIS, and especially in the preferred alternative (i.e. the Proposed Forest Plan). This shows a good commitment on the part of the Humboldt National Forest to contribute to a system of natural areas in the Intermountain Region. It also shows a commitment on your part toward dealing with the RNA requirements in the National Forest Management Act. Further, this is a positive response to Planning Issue #8, regarding areas of special interest, as described on page III-2 of the PFP. 142-1

The comments which follow concern how the DEIS and PFP treat the management of candidate and established RNA's. I believe that some specific additions and clarifications are called for in the Final EIS and Final Plan.

Several places in the DEIS and PFP it is stated that "the natural condition of these areas will be protected". I would like to see the Plan state specifically that such protection will apply immediately to the five candidate sites, while they are being considered for designation. 142-2 In connection with this, the Plan should also say that if a candidate area is not established, then it will become part of the surrounding or adjacent Management Area. 142-3

I would also like to see specific written management direction for RNA's after they are formally designated. In studying other Forest Plans, I have not found a standardized set of directions for RNA manage- 142-4

(p. 3)

142-1 Thank you for your support of the recommendations on Research Natural Areas (RNA's) in the Plan.

142-2,3 Objectives have been added to Goal #11 to clarify the Forest's intent to protect candidate RNA's prior to designation and to return areas not designated as RNA's to full multiple use management.

142-4 Standards, guidelines, and management direction for the Research Natural Areas have been included in the Final Plan.

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ment. I have attached examples of RNA management direction which appear in Draft Plans of three other National Forests in Region Four. I request that something of this nature be included in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

This inclusion can be accomplished in the Plan in several ways. One way is to make RNA's a separate Management Area, with their own management direction and standards and guidelines. Although it would involve a restructuring of the Humboldt's Plan, such an approach is not without precedent in Region Four. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest's Management Area structure is very similar to that of the Humboldt, consisting of large, contiguous blocks of land. RNA's constitute their own Management Area in the Wasatch-Cache Forest Plan.

If such an approach is not feasible on the Humboldt, then I would recommend that RNA management direction and standards and guidelines appear as a distinct unit elsewhere in the Final Plan. A cohesive RNA management unit could be incorporated into the "Forest-Wide Standards and Guidelines" section, which begins on page IV-16 of the PFP. Alternatively, specific RNA management direction can be written individually for each Management Area where RNA's occur.

I would like to focus briefly on two specific management topics with regard to RNA's: minerals and vehicles. The expected future condition and demand for locatable minerals, described on pages III-31-33 of the DEIS, indicates that there may be mineral conflicts with several of the RNA candidates. I do not believe that these potential conflicts are serious enough to impede RNA designation for these sites. RNA establishment in itself does not constitute a mineral withdrawal. Further, it is the policy of the Forest Service's Intermountain RNA Committee to go forward with RNA establishment on most mineralized sites, realizing that a few areas might be disturbed by mining activities if economic conditions change. 142-5

The Forest Service has more leeway to control surface-disturbing activities associated with leasable minerals. I recommend that your management direction for RNA's incorporate at least a no surface occupancy requirement via special stipulations 3, 11, 14, and/or 15, as shown on page IV-32 of the PFP and again in Appendix H. It would be better yet to deny future leasing in RNA's based on the "Irretrievable and Irreversible" criteria, described near the top of page IV-30 of the PFP: losses of natural conditions and scientific baselines are renewable only over very long time spans, and essentially cannot be mitigated. 142-6

Several places in the DEIS and PFP it is mentioned that the Forest travel plan will remain the same. However, Forest-wide Goal #8 (page IV-3 of PFP) calls for the travel plan to be reviewed annually and re- 142-7

(p. 4)

RESPONSES

142-5 Candidate Research Natural Areas will be withdrawn from mineral entry following their designatin as Research Natural Areas.

1452-6 A "no surface occupancy" clause will be required for all mineral leases within the five proposed Research Natural Areas. This requirement has been added as a Forest-wide standard and guideline.

142-7 The Forest Travel Plan will be updated annually. Within the standards and guidelines for the Research Natural Areas, a statement has been added that RNA's are closed to vehicle travel.

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vised as necessary. As RNA's become designated on the Humboldt Forest, there will be an immediate need to revise the travel plan to show RNA's as being closed to vehicles.

I also recommend that the locations of the five RNA candidates be shown on the maps which accompany the Final Plan and EIS. The reconnaissance reports that I prepared after visiting these sites show the proposed RNA boundaries on standard Forest Service maps (1/2 inch = 1 mile). 142-8

A monitoring program which, at a minimum, periodically checks RNA's for intrusions or alterations should be incorporated into the Implementation section of the Final Plan. 142-9

My remaining comments with regard to RNA's refer to how they are mentioned in specific parts of the DEIS and PFP. Overall I believe that you have done a good job, but I do have some specific suggestions or clarifications that would be well to incorporate into the Final EIS and Forest Plan. I will address topics roughly in the order in which they appear in the two draft planning documents.

In Chapter II of the DEIS, there are some inconsistencies between the narrative descriptions of alternatives (pages II-17-72) and the summary in Table II-20 (pages II-102-106). The narratives state that alternatives E, I and J recommend designation of 3, 3 and 5 RNA's, respectively. Table II-20 shows these same alternatives as recommending 5, 5 and 0 RNA's respectively. I believe that the narrative description is correct, because it coincides with the statement regarding RNA's on page IV-42 of the DEIS. 142-10

Brief descriptions of the candidate RNA's appear three places in the draft documents: Pages II-26-27 of the PFP, and pages III-39-40 and IV-42-43 of the DEIS. It is important to have such descriptions in the EIS and Plan, and I commend you for having included them. In the interest of accuracy, I would like to suggest that these descriptions be reworked slightly, to appear in the Final EIS and Forest Plan as follows:

(1) Mt. Washington

Approximately 260 acres located in portions of Sections 11 and 12, T12N R68E, Mount Diablo Baseline Meridian (MDBM). This area is located in White Pine County, Ely Ranger District. A principal feature is a stand of old bristlecone pines, which can be used to build chronologies through tree-ring research. Also present are stands codominated by limber and bristlecone pines, typical of subalpine forests in the east-central Great Basin.
[Note: the acreage increase from 220 to 260 reflects a slight boundary adjustment as a result of the second field visit to the site in 1984.] 142-11

(p. 5)

142-8 We agree that showing the proposed Research Natural Area boundaries on the maps is useful. The Forest map has been revised to show the RNA boundaries.

142-9 A monitoring activity which include will checking for intrusions or alterations within RNA's has been added to the monitoring schedule in Chapter V, "Implementation".

142-10 Table II-19 has been corrected to correspond with the narrative in Chapters II and IV of the FIS.

142-11 The description of the Mt. Washington Bristlecone Pine site has been revised to clarify its value as a Research Natural Area.

The total acreage was increased in the Final Plan as suggested in your report.

142 CONT. COMMENTS

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(2) White Pine Peak

Approximately 670 acres located in portions of Sections 20, 28, 29, 32 and 33, T12N R58E, MDBM. The peak is located in Nye County, Ely Ranger District. The principal feature of this area is a "native rangeland", consisting of sagebrush-grass communities in nearly-pristine condition, which are scarce in the Great Basin. Also present are small stands of white fir and of limber pine-bristlecone pine. 142-12

(3) Seitz Canyon

Approximately 980 acres located in portions of Sections 20, 21, 28, 29, 32 and 33, T32N R58E, MDBM. The canyon is located in Elko County, Ruby Mountain Ranger District. This area features a rich and diverse floral component. Many types of plant communities are present, including riparian wetlands, subalpine herb- and shrublands, and alpine herblands. The canyon also exhibits metamorphic rock types and effects of alpine glaciation, neither of which are common in the Great Basin. 142-13

(4) Jack Creek Crater

Approximately 250 acres located in portions of Sections 26 and 27, T46N R58E, MDBM. The crater is located in Elko County, Jarbidge Ranger District. The principal feature is a stand codominated by whitebark pine and subalpine fir, neither of which is well-represented in the Great Basin. Small riparian communities are also present. [Note: The acreage increase from 215 to 250 reflects a slight boundary adjustment recommended after preparation of the reconnaissance report.] 142-14

(5) Pearl Peak

Approximately 640 acres located in portions of Sections 3, 4, 9 and 10, T27N R57E, MDBM. The peak is located in Elko County, Ruby Mountain Ranger District. Its principal features are ungrazed sagebrush-grass types at middle and lower elevations, and a limber pine-bristlecone pine woodland at upper elevations. Some of the bristlecones may be very old, and thus useful for dendrochronological research. [Note: The acreage increase from 470 to 640 reflects an option for expansion discussed in the reconnaissance report.] 142-15

* * *

I found the sections on Short-Term vs Long-Term Productivity and Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources (page IV-43 of DEIS) to be well done. I particularly agree with the statement that alteration of a natural area by man is not reversible for scientific purposes. Unnatural alteration of natural ecosystems diminishes or destroys their value as a scientific baseline.

(p. 6)

RESPONSES

142-12	The description of the White Pine Peak area has been revised to clarify its value as a Research Natural Area.
142-13	The description of the Seitz Canyon area has been revised to better explain its value as a RNA.
142-14	The Jack Creek Crater description has been revised to better explain its value as a Research Natural Area.
	The total acreage was increased in the Final Plan as suggested in your report.
142-15	The Pearl Peak area description has been changed to better explain its value as a Research Natural Area.
	The total acreage was increased in the Final Plan as suggested in your report.

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Research Natural Areas are excellent locations to meet some of the research needs mentioned on page II-33 of the PFP. White Pine Peak features higher-elevation sagebrush-grass types in excellent condition, on which the types of studies listed in Need #3 could be conducted. Seitz Canyon contains riparian systems as a setting for research to help meet Need #1. These added justifications for RNA establishment could be mentioned in the Final Plan. 142-16

I believe that mention of the five recommended RNA's would be appropriate within the section in the Plan on Desired Future Condition of the Forest, to show further the Humboldt's commitment to establishing these areas. Such mention could be placed after the "Lands" section, which appears on page IV-47 of the PFP. 142-17

I found a number of inconsistencies and errors in the way the candidate RNA's are treated in the Management Area write-ups. Unless you choose to make RNA's a separate Management Area (as suggested on the third page of this letter), I recommend incorporating the following changes into the Final Plan:

Management Area	Recommended Changes (page numbers refer to PFP)	
Ruby Mountains	• Near the top of page IV-116, the reference to Pearl Peak should be changed to read: "At the high elevations in the vicinity of Pearl Peak, which is being considered for Research Natural Area designation, there are stands of bristlecone pine which may have values for tree-ring studies. Efforts are directed at protecting this area, including keeping it isolated from roads and other improvements." (I believe that the reference to 3000-year-old trees applies to Mt. Washington, unless you know something about Pearl Peak that I don't.)	142-18
	• The reference to Seitz Canyon should be removed from this Management Area; Seitz Canyon is within the Ruby Mountains Recommended Wilderness Management Area.	142-19
	• On page IV-117, under Lands, add the following: "A Research Natural Area is recommended on Pearl Peak; an Establishment Record will be prepared and submitted to the Regional Forester."	142-20
Ruby Mountains Recommended Wilderness	• Within the description section (page IV-145) add a reference stating that the upper part of Seitz Canyon is recommended as a Research Natural Area.	142-21

(p. 7)

142-16	The area descriptions for White Pine Peak and Seitz Canyon were revised to include a statement on how they related to research needs identified in the Draft and Final Plans.
142-17	A short paragraph has been added to this section stating the goal to have five Research Natural Areas on the Forest.
142-18	The portion of the description referring to Pearl Peak has been corrected.
142-19	This statement has been deleted in the Ruby Mountains Management Area description and included in the Ruby Mountain Recommended Wilderness Management Area description.
142-20	This statement has been included in the Management Prescription.
142-21	Please refer to response number 142-19.

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Management Area	Recommended Changes (page numbers refer to PFP)	
Ruby Mountains Recommended Wilderness	• On page IV-146, under Lands, add the following: "A Research Natural Area is recommended in Seitz Canyon; an Establishment Record will be prepared and submitted to the Regional Forester."	142-21
Jarbidge	• Within the Description section (page IV-160) add a reference stating that Jack Creek Crater is recommended as a Research Natural Area.	
	• On page IV-161, under Lands, add the following clause to the sentence about the Jack Creek Crater RNA; "an Establishment Record will be prepared and submitted to the Regional Forester."	142-22
Bristlecone Recommended Wilderness	• Within the description section (page IV-338) the reference to the Mt. Washington RNA could be strengthened by adding the following: "Included are bristlecone pine trees which may be over 3000 years old. Efforts are directed at protecting this area, including keeping it isolated from roads and other permanent improvements."	142-23
	• On page IV-339, under Lands, change the RNA reference to read: "A Research Natural Area is recommended to the northeast of Mt. Washington; an Establishment Record will be prepared and submitted to the Regional Forester."	142-24
White Pine	• Within the Description section (page IV-393) the reference to the White Pine Peak RNA can be strengthened by saying that efforts will be directed at protecting the area.	142-25
	• On page IV-394, under Lands, add the following clause to the sentence about the White Pine Peak RNA: "an Establishment Record will be prepared and submitted to the Regional Forester."	142-26

* * *

All of my remarks about RNA's so far have been intended to clarify their treatment within the Humboldt Forest Plan. In addition, many of

(p. 8)

RESPONSES

142-22	Please refer to response number 142-20.
142-23	The description has been revised to explain the value of the area as a RNA.
142-24	Please refer to response number 142-20.
142-25	This statement has been included to explain efforts needed to protect this area's value as a RNA.
142-26	Please refer to response number 142-20.

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my suggestions have been made so that the subsequent RNA-designation process runs smoothly. In dealing with people in many levels of the Forest Service, I have learned that certain things must be "just so" in Forest Plans or else RNA designation may be delayed. I hope you will consider my comments with this bureaucratic reality in mind.

Let me conclude my comments about Research Natural Areas with some general observations. First, I believe it is safe to say that designation of these five candidates as RNA's will have negligible impact on Forest resource outputs and local socioeconomic conditions. The Humboldt National Forest is in an excellent position to fill gaps in the Regional RNA system with minimal management conflict.

The Nature Conservancy will continue to cooperate in the process of formal RNA designation for these five candidate areas. Such cooperation will be in the form of gathering needed information and preparing the required Establishment Records.

The identification of candidate RNA's in Forest Plans should not be seen as the end of efforts to build a system of RNA's in the Intermountain Region. Gaps still remain in the system, some of which can likely be filled with additional areas on the Humboldt National Forest. The Conservancy will continue to work closely with the Humboldt Forest and the Intermountain RNA Committee on future RNA proposals. As further searching locates additional qualified candidates, we will be glad to work cooperatively toward their establishment.

Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive Species

In reading through the draft planning documents, I tried to get an overall sense of the Humboldt Forest's commitment to protecting species of concern. I found it useful to group these species into three categories: federally-listed endangered or threatened animals, sensitive animals, and sensitive plants (there are no T or E plants on the Humboldt).

Throughout the PFP I saw many statements regarding the protection of the three endangered or threatened animals on the Forest. My primary comment deals with what appear to be significant inconsistencies in terminology: In some places it is stated that current habitat of T and E species will be "improved" (e.g. page III-1). However, through much of the PFP's critical Chapter IV, habitat for T and E animals is projected to be "maintained". I don't know how important this inconsistency is, because I am not familiar with the Humboldt's role in the existing recovery plans. 142-27

(p. 9)

142-27 Habitat for T&E species will be improved. The Final Plan and EIS reflect this.

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142-28 The PFP appears to provide a lower level of protection for sensitive animal species than most of the other alternatives. This stands out in the summary of alternatives presented on page II-102 of the DEIS: habitat for sensitive animals is mentioned under most of the alternatives for planning problem #2; such mention does not appear under alternative K.

142-29 Considering sensitive animal species, the PFP specifies habitat improvement or maintenance only for the Bonneville cutthroat trout, in only four of the Management Areas (presumably this species does not occur in the other twelve Areas). Bonneville cutthroat trout is the only sensitive animal species specifically mentioned within the Forest-wide goals for wildlife and fisheries (Goal #15, page IV-5 of PFP).

142-30 The DEIS does state that habitat for the other sensitive animals on the Forest will be maintained at existing levels under all alternatives (pages IV-11-12). I believe that this should be stated specifically at appropriate places within the Final Plan.

142-31 Requirements for sensitive plants seem to be considered throughout appropriate sections of the DEIS and PFP, though mainly at a "maintenance" rather than "improvement" level. I would urge that this minimum, or preferably stronger, treatment of sensitive plants be carried over into the Final EIS and Plan.

142-32 My main concern is __how__ the Humboldt Forest plans to implement the maintenance or improvement of habitat for endangered, threatened and sensitive species. Activities such as site-clearances and mitigation are primarily "reactive" responses to potentially adverse impacts. Proactive efforts are needed to maintain viable populations of all native animal and plant species, especially the sensitive ones. To accomplish this it seems necessary to develop plans which address desired distributions, numbers of populations, and numbers of individuals for these species. Such plans would then be subject to ongoing monitoring and evaluation during the implementation phase of the Forest Plan.

__Conclusion__

The Nature Conservancy hopes to be of much greater service to you in the future. At present we are working to establish a Heritage Program in Nevada. This would be a data base containing pertinent biological information and locations for rare species and natural communities within the state. I see such a program as being of great benefit to the Humboldt Forest, by providing detailed information on the natural diversity which you are charged with protecting.

RESPONSES

142-28 The statement regarding habitat for sensitive animal species had been inadvertently left off Table II-20. This table has been corrected. Under Alternative K, the preferred alternative, habitat for sensitive species will be improved.

142-29 Bonneville and Lahontan cutthroat trout and the peregrine falcon are mentioned in Goal #15. Management direction, standards, and guidelines which address improvement of these species' habitats are included in the appropriate management area.

142-30 Please refer to response number 142-29.

142-31 Sensitive plants are protected through the standards and guidelines outlined in the Final Plan. The Forest will continue to inventory for sensitive plants and provide protection and enhancement as appropriate.

142-32 Recovery plans have been prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in conjunction with NDOW and the Forest Service for Lahontan cutthroat trout and peregrine falcons. These plans outline actions needed to achieve the long-range goal of recovery of the species and their de-listing as a T&E species.

Other species are inventoried and protective or enhancement actions are taken, as appropriate. For example, (a) in the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines emphasis is placed on improving Bonneville cutthroat habitat through structural improvement projects and (b) annual animal operating plans for livestock grazing outline actions needed to protect sensitive plants.

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RESPONSES

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Finally, thank you for considering my comments in the development of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Forest Plan. I appreciate the interest and support that I have received throughout the Forest during my visits there. I look forward to continuing a good working relationship between The Nature Conservancy and the Humboldt National Forest.

Sincerely yours,

Joel S. Tuhy
Joel S. Tuhy
Utah/Nevada Natural
Areas Ecologist

Attachments (3): RNA management-direction statements

143 COMMENTS

SEP 30 1985

1342 Cedar St.
Elko, Nevada 89801
September 28, 1985

#143

Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Sir:

I have read through the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan at the Elko County Library.

In general, I believe the plan to be both comprehensive and sound. I'm particularly pleased that you are recommending Roadless areas #4-367 in the Ruby Mountains and #4-352 on Mt. Moriah for Wilderness designation. Both these areas are outstanding and highly deserving of protection from further exploitation.

My concerns do not lie with the plan but with its' implementation. After more than thirty years of observation of the Humboldt Forest, I fail to see the needed protection of riparian habitat. Too many streams still suffer from heavy livestock use. This is seen in head cutting, streambank erosion and increase in Canada thistle and other noxious weeds. 143-1

RESPONSES

143-1 Riparian area management is a big concern on the Forest and has been addressed in the Plan under goals, objectives, management direction and standards and guidelines. It is true that livestock impact riparian areas especially in narrow canyons with steep side slopes. However, we feel that most riparian areas can still be used by livestock through proper management. We are directed to evaluate the riparian resource as we develop and update allotment management plans.

Research being done in Idaho addressing livestock grazing in riparian areas indicates that there are management systems that can maintain or improve riparian systems. We plan to implement those research findings where feasible when we update allotment management plans.

143 CONT. COMMENTS

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aspen regeneration is failing along many streams because of heavy livestock use.

A second concern is lack of public access to forest land. Your plan calls for securing two accesses per year on the entire Humboldt Forest. Unfortunately, it also ties the access program to the land exchange work. This means that progress on access will be slowed even more than the present inexcusably slow rate. 143-1 143-2

While I generally concur with your plan, I strongly believe that Humboldt National Forest personnel need to address the riparian habitat problem and the public access problem now and not take refuge behind voluminous future plans.

Sincerely,

Leonard W. Hoskins

RESPONSES

143-2 It is our goal to work closely with private land owners in acquiring public access to National Forest lands where there is an identified need. Our best method of acquiring rights-of-way is through the land exchange program where we have something to negotiate and exchange with the private land owner. The reason we are proceeding so slowly is due to the shortage of funds to purchase rights-of-way.

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#144

320 York Way
Sparks, Nev. 89431
September 25, 1985

R. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nev. 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

We were distressed to find that the proposed management plan for the Humboldt National Forest leaves out vast roadless areas from consideration as wilderness. We feel it is vital that the plan be revised to include these areas among those given wilderness protection.

The specific areas which should be designated as wilderness are the following:

1. Jarbidge additions: include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and the country west of St. Mary's River, a total addition of 54,000 acres. | 144-1
2. Elk Mountain: 12,500 acres. | 144-2
3. Santa Rosa: 80,000 acres. | 144-3
4. Ruby Mountains: include the northern portion of the range, a total of 150,000 acres. | 144-4
5. East Humboldt: 30,000 acres including acquisition of private land in Acker Basin. | 144-5
6. Pearl Peak: extend boundary to southeast to total 23,000 acres. | 144-6
7. South Schell: 120,000 acres. | 144-7
8. Mount Moriah: include southeast portion of the roadless area to total 98,000 acres. | 144-8
9. Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone): Include Highland Ridge and the old road to Johnson Lake for a total of 120,000 acres. | 144-9
10. Current Mountain (Duckwater): 49,000 acres. | 144-10
11. Grant Range: expand bountaries to total 60,000 acres. | 144-11
12. Quinn Canyon : 95,000 acres (recommended for wilderness in RARE II). | 144-12

All of these areas contain remarkable and irreplaceable scenic, recreational, archaeological, wildlife, vegetation, and water resources.

We also support the proposed "Standards and Guidelines" for management of timber, range, riparian areas and wildlife. | 144-13

The Forest Service plan now being developed represents probably the last hope of preserving the wilderness characteristics of many of the above areas. We strongly urge that the Forest Service afford wilderness protection to these remaining undeveloped areas.

Bruce E. Blackader

Martha L. Hildreth

RESPONSES

144-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

144-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

144-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

144-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

144-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

144-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

144-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

144-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

144-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

144-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

144-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

144-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

144-13 Thank you for your support of the standards and guidelines for timber, range, riparian, and range management.

#1 145

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Sept. 24, 1985

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humbolt Nat. Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV. -89801-

Dear Supervisor Graves,

I have a few comments to offer regarding the Humboldt Forest Management Plan. First I'd like to say how much I appreciate the recreational quality already present within the Humboldt N.F. Having lived and hiked in the Sierra Nevada range for many years now, I especially head into Nevada when I want solitude and less impacted mountains in which to hike and camp.

For this reason I ~~hardily~~ heartily support wilderness designation for much of the roadless land in Nevada. In particular I'd like to see the following areas managed as wilderness; the mountains east of Elko which you refer to as the Ruby Mountains, East Humboldt & Pearl Peak areas. Concerning the Ruby's, I'd like to see ovr

145-1
145-2
145-3

145-1 Please refer to response number 8-4.

145-2 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

145-3 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

145 CONT. COMMENTS

the proposal enlarged to take in the northern part of the range which would bring it up to 150,00 acres. I think it would be a good idea to acquire the private land in Acker Basin and recommend 30,000 acres for the East Humboldt Region. Regarding Pearl Peak the boundary out to go further to the southeast.

Another area which I am familiar with and concerned about is Wheeler Peak vicinity. I'd like to see you include Highland Ridge and the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake in the proposal. The Mt. Moriah proposal should be extended to the southeast. I also feel that Duckwater (White Pine) and Quinn Canyon Range should be designated as permanent wilderness. 49,000 acres in the Duckwater Area should be preserved and 95,000 acres in the Quinn Canyon Range.

145-4

145-5

145-6
145-7

Thank-you for the work you've done on this management plan and for the opportunity to comment on this draft.

Sincerely,
Lauren Davis

RESPONSES

145-4 Please refer to response number 8-1.

145-5 Please refer to response number 8-2.

145-6 Please refer to response number 8-3.

145-7 Please refer to response number 8-7.

#146

SEP 30 1985

September 26, 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV. 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

Please consider these comments on the draft management plan for the Humboldt Forest as you draw up the final management plan. I am disappointed that the draft plan neglected to include several deserving areas as recommended wilderness. I sincerely hope the final plan will include the following magnificent areas:

Current Mountain, 49,000 acres. 146-1

Santa Rosa Mountains, 80,000 acres. 146-2

Grant Range, 60,000 acres. 146-3

Quinn Canyon Range, 95,000 acres. 146-4

Ruby Mountains, enlarge the proposal to 150,000 acres. 146-5

Pearl Peak, 23,000 acres. 146-6

Mt. Moriah, 98,000 acres. 146-7

Wheeler Peak, 120,000 acres. 146-8

Jarbidge additions, 54,000 acres. 146-9

South Schell Mountains, 120,000 acres. 146-10

East Humboldt Mountains, 30,000 acres. 146-11

146-1 Please refer to response number 8-3.

146-2 Please refer to response number 8-12.

146-3 Please refer to response number 14-11.

146-4 Please refer to response number 8-7.

146-5 Please refer to response number 8-4.

146-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

146-7 Please refer to response number 8-2.

146-8 Please refer to response number 8-1.

146-9 Please refer to response number 8-5.

146-10 Please refer to response number 61-7.

146-11 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

SEP 30 1985

146

Elk Mountain, 12,500 acres. | 146-12

Thank you for considering these comments, and I will look forward to the final management plan including these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Barbara Kelley

Barbara Kelley
1850 Van Ness Ave.
Reno, Nevada 89503

146-12 Please refer to response number 8-11.

SEP 30 1985

25 Sept. 1985
2931 Viking Way,
Carson City, NV.
89701

#147

B.J. Graves
Forest Supervisor,
Humboldt National Forest
Elko, NV.

Dear Mr. Graves,
Are sure that all of the
Humboldt National Forest
is important to us now
and will be invaluable to
our children, however we
especially expect Ruby Moun-
tains area can be enlarged. 147-1
Another of our favorite
areas is the Wheeler Peak
Range, including Johnson Lake.
Please include the [illegible] 147-2
inner voices of this family to
those urging adequate protection
for ~~these~~ beautiful regions.
Sincerely, Dr.&Mrs. W.P. Gibbh

147-1 Please refer to response number 8-4.

147-2 Please refer to response number 8-1.

① SEP 30 1985

SEPT. 27, 1985
1640 DAVIDSON WAY
RENO 89509

#148

DEAR BJ,

I AM WRITING IN RESPONSE TO YOUR FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS — IN PARTICULAR, AS REGARDS WILDERNESS. NEVADA SO BADLY LACKS IN PROTECTION FOR ITS WILDERNESS AREAS, COMPARED TO OTHER WESTERN STATES, AND YET, WITH OUR HIGH PERCENTAGE OF PUBLIC LANDS, WE HAVE THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE OUTSTANDING AREAS FOR THE PUBLIC-AT-LARGE. THIS REVIEW COMES AT A TIME WHEN NEVADA IS SEEKING TO DIVERSIFY ITS ECONOMIC BASE AND THE PUBLIC IS INCREASINGLY TURNING TOWARD RECREATIONAL OUTLETS — NEVADA STANDS TO BENEFIT FROM WILDERNESS DESIGNATION FOR ITS PRIME ROADLESS AREAS — AND THE HUMBOLT FOREST, WITH ITS LARGE DIVERSITY OF SPECTACULAR AREAS, SHOULD CONTRIBUTE LARGELY TO THAT SYSTEM. THESE ARE THE AREAS I CONSIDER OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE FOR WSA. STATUS : 148-1

1. MT. MORIAH 98,000 acres (INCLUDING S.E. SECTION) REMOTE — RUGGED — WILD — SPECTACULAR — SPORTSMEN'S DELIGHT (TROUT!) 148-2

2. WHEELER PEAK 120,000 acres (INCLUDING HIGHLAND RIDGE + OLD RD. TO JOHNSON LAKE FROM HIGH CAMPGROUND) FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS I'VE PAID A TWICE ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO WHEELER

148-1 Please refer to response number 4-2.

148-2 Please refer to response number 8-2.

148 CONT. **COMMENTS** | **RESPONSES**

②

SEP 30 1985

198

AND TO ME IT WAS GREAT SPIRITUAL POWER, ALTHOUGH I KNOW THAT PROBABLY DOESN'T COUNT IN COMMENTS! I LOVE TO GO AND "COMMUNE" WITH THE BRISTLECONES — SIT IN THE HIGH CIRQUE BELOW THE PEAK + FEEL THE IMMENSENESS OF THE MOUNTAIN SURROUND ME. THIS IS A PLACE LIKE NO OTHER - ANYWHERE! | 148-3 | 148-4

3. SOUTH SCHELL 120,000 acres
I HAVE CROSS-COUNTRY SKIED INTO THIS AREA + FIND IT SPECTACULAR — AM ANXIOUS TO EXPLORE ITS MANY ENTICING DRAINAGES NEXT SUMMER. IT IS HIGH - LONG - COMPLEX - AND DESERVING OF WSA. | 148-5

4. CURRANT MTN. 49,000 acres
THIS AREA IS A KNOCKOUT! — JUST TO LOOK AT THE CRAGGY WHITE FACE OF THIS MTN. IS TO KNOW THAT THE BEST USE FOR THIS AREA IS WILDERNESS — CERTAINLY NO MINING COULD BE COST EFFECTIVE IN THIS RUGGED AREA - AND ITS JUST TRULY BEAUTIFUL. | 148-6

5. GRANT RANGE 60,000 acres | 148-7
6. QUINN CANYON 95,000 acres
THESE LITTLE KNOWN AREAS ARE TRULY SCENIC + PROVIDE OPTIMUM SOLITUDE. A WSA. STATUS WOULD PROTECT THE BIG HORN SHEEP POPULATION AS WELL AS PROVIDE A UNIQUELY BEAUTIFUL —

148-3 Please refer to response number 8-1.

148-4 Please refer to response number 61-7.

148-5 Please refer to response number 8-3.

148-6 Please refer to response number 14-11.

148-7 Please refer to response number 8-7.

148 CONT. COMMENTS

③

SEP 30 1985 148

AREA FOR BACKPACKERS + SPORTSMEN.

⑦ EAST HUMBOLT 30,000 acres + PRIVATE LAND ACQUISITION IN DEER BASIN | 148-8

THE LAKES ALONG IN THIS HIGH DRAMATIC RANGE — A RARITY FOR THE GREAT BASIN — SHOULD QUALIFY THIS SPECTACULAR AREA FOR WSA.

I HAVE CAR-CAMPED ON IT'S SLOPES JUST BELOW ROADLESS AREA MANY TIMES AND I'M ALLWAYS AMAZED THAT WE HAVE SUCH BEAUTY RIGHT HERE IN THE "WASTELAND" OF NEVADA!

8. RUBY MTNS. 150,000 acres (including N. portion)

TRULY THE GEM OF NEVADA — WILDERNESS SIGHTS + DELIGHTS (FISHING, X-COUNTRY SKI, ETC.)

TRULY ON A PAR WITH ANY ANYWHERE — A PICTURE OF THE RUBYS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN ANY PUBLIC RELATIONS ADS FOR NEVADA, IT'S A TRUE SELLING POINT! | 148-9

9. PEARL PEAK 23,000 acres | 148-10

REMOTE — BEAUTIFUL — BRISTLECONE — WILDLIFE EQUALS ALL ANY WILDERNESS NEEDS!

10. JARBIDGE ADDITIONS 54,000 acres (including Canyon Creek headwaters, area So. of Marys River, + Camp Creek) IT ONLY MAKES EMMINENT GOOD MANAGEMENT SENSE TO ADD ON WHAT WE CAN TO OUR SOLE WILDERNESS AREA. BESIDES | 148-11

RESPONSES

148-8 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

148-9 Please refer to response number 8-4.

148-10 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

148-11 Please refer to response number 8-5.

148 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

④

148

IT WOULD PROVIDE JARBIDGE WITH AN UNCOMMON DIVERSITY OF TERRAIN.

11. ELK MOUNTAIN 12,000 acres
A BEAUTIFUL LITTLE GEM WHICH SHOULD BE PROTECTED FOR ITS WILDLIFE | SPORTING POTENTIAL ALONE! | 148-12

12. SANTA ROSAS 80,000 acres | 148-13
WHAT AN OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE A WILDERNESS AREA IN NORTH CENTRAL NEVADA — STILL CLOSE ENOUGH FOR RENO FOLKS TO UTILIZE ON A WEEKEND. AS HEADWATERS OF 2 MAJOR NEVADA RIVERS THIS IS AN~~D~~ OUTSTANDING FISHING AREA, AS WELL AS PRIME WILDLIFE HABITAT — ESPECIALLY FOR RAPTORS.

BECAUSE THE BRISTLECONES GRACE SO MANY OF THE AREAS OF YOUR FOREST I VEHEMENTLY SUPPORT SPECIAL PROTECTION FOR THESE UNIQUE, WORLD-RENOWNED TREES UNDER YOUR "STANDARDS + GUIDELINES." | 148-14 ALSO BECAUSE SO MUCH OF NEVADA'S WILDLANDS ARE ALREADY ROADED AND ACCESSIBLE TO ORV USE, I STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY RECONSTRUCTION OF ROADS OR CONSTRUCTION OF THEM IN OR NEAR ROADLESS AREAS. | 148-15 NOW IS THE TIME TO PROTECT THIS FAST DWINDLING

148-12 Please refer to response number 8-11.

148-13 Please refer to response number 8-12.

148-14 Please refer to response number 14-15.

148-15 Please refer to response number 14-14.

148 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

⑤ SEP 30 1985

148

RESOURCE OF ROADLESS AREAS — 10 YEARS FROM NOW WHEN YOU CONSULT YOUR NEXT REVIEW WILL ALREADY BE TOO LATE.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

Happy Trails!

— Karen Tanner

149 COMMENTS

#149

SEP 30 85

Lahontan Audubon Society, Inc.
Post Office Box 2304
Reno, Nevada 89505
(702) 329-8766

September 27, 1985

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt, National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Supervisor Graves,

You and your staff have done a professional job in the completion of the Draft Environmental Statement and Proprosed Land and Resource Management Plan for the vast and diverse area that is the Humboldt National Forest.

The map display by alternatives is very helpful. The summary of the alternatives is well done. We support the "Standards and Guidelines" that protect the wildlife and recreation values of the Forest.

The Lahontan Audubon Society prefers Alternative F, which is based on the 1985 RPA update as this would yield the highest level of service. With adequate funding we are confident that the lands will be managed on an invest- basis if they remain under Forest Service jurisdiction. 149-1

We can support your Preferred Alternative K as a balance between the market and non-market resources.

We support each of the five wilderness areas selected for your preferred alternative. We regret that the Wilderness allocation issue has become politically urgent. There seems to be no provision to designate any areas for further study. 149-2 We see that all Wilderness areas are compromised by the grazing of livestock. Hopefully, the economic impracticality and increased awareness will change this practice. 149-3

The Environmental Statement and Plan are a monumental start in collecting and displaying information about these lands. There is much more that needs to be known about the environmental effects. We see the plan as a beginning and hope you will be able to continue in its completion and implementation supported by professional evaluation of the capability of the resources.

Sincerely yours,

Ann M Hibbs
Ann Hibbs, president
Lahontan Audubon Society

RESPONSES

149-1 **We appreciate your support for our land management plan.**

149-2 **Please refer to response number 4-2.**

149-3 **When Congress passed the Wilderness Act of 1964 they expressed their intent that livestock grazing be continued in wilderness areas.**

We disagree with your statement that livestock grazing compromises wilderness values. However, we do recognize the need to properly manage livestock grazing in wilderness areas to preserve the wilderness character. The management direction, standards, and guidelines in the Plan provide sufficient direction to coordinate livestock grazing and wilderness.

150 COMMENTS

SEP 30 1985

#150

P. O. Box 5306 Pine Mtn
Frazier Park, CA 93225

Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

We urge the following additions to the National Wilderness System:

- Jarbidge Additions
- Elk Mountain
- Santa Rosa
- Ruby Mountains
- East Humboldt
- Pearl Peak
- South Schell
- Mount Moriah
- Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone)
- Currant Mountain (Duckwater)
- Grant Range
- Quinn Canyon Range

150-1 thru 150-12

and therefore urge the Forest Service to recommend them for Wilderness Status in the current Land Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The unique resource of over 900,000 acres of roadless areas in the national forest of eastern and northern Nevada must be protected in wilderness immediately. Your designation at this time will hasten the Congressional action already started in the House.

We also urge protection generally for recreational and wildlife values throughout the scattered segments of Humboldt NF, and for the "Standards and Guidelines" affording special protection for the rare Bristlecone Pine. There are already enough roads in our national forests to serve our needs for roaded recreation and resource recovery for the foreseeable future. Roadless areas are a vanishing species which we must protect with utmost diligence. We urge that there by no new construction of roads in or near roadless areas! 150-13 150-14 150-15

Sally + Lee Reid
Sally and Lee Reid

Sept. 25, 1985

RESPONSES

150-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

150-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

150-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

150-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

150-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

150-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

150-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

150-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

150-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

150-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

150-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

150-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

150-13 Please refer to response number 14-13.

150-13 Please refer to response number 14-15.

150-14 Please refer to response number 14-14.

#151

SEP [illegible]

September 26, 1985

B.J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
Elko, Nevada.

Dear Mr. Graves,

I am taking this opportunity to express my thoughts about your recently released Forest Management plans. My visits to Nevada have been limited, but each time has included a visit to your National Forest and to some of the most beautiful and unique natural places. My intimate familiarity is with Jarbidge area and the Ruby Mountains. Each place is so unique and special that I had to comment on them in relation to your general Forest plan and wilderness designations.

I definitely think that the Jarbidge Wilderness area needs to be expanded to protect that whole area. Please include a wider area to include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek and at least some area west of St. Marys River. The area needs to remain intact to preserve its wonderful characteristics. 151-1

The Ruby Mountains are just one of the most beautiful places I've ever hiked in. The place was really well utilized and that to me expressed a need to expand the area of wilderness to include the northern portion of the range. 151-2
Please realize that out-of-state visitors frequently these areas

151-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

151-2 Please refer to response number 8-4.

151 CONT. COMMENTS

not related to gambling and that the natural areas of your state and in particular, the Humboldt National Forest, offer wonderful wilderness experience. To expand the wilderness areas will increase visitation and that, I find, your state is desiring. The Ruby Mountains and Jarbidge Wilderness get much use already. Their expansion ~~to~~ protect more area will enhance the already preserved area and add much to the preservation of wonderful natural areas.

Sincerely,

Gayle Russel

PO Box 157

Penryn, Ca 95663

RESPONSES

151-2 See response 151-2 above.

SEP 30 1985

#152

Mr. B.J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest,
976 Mountain City Highway,
Elko, Nevada 89801

September 26

Dear Mr. Graves,

My husband and I visited the lovely Jarbidge area last month, and were very impressed by its beauty and its wild quality. We hope to return there next year for a more extended camping trip.

We understand from Nevada friends that an addition is being considered for this wilderness area.

We urge you to pursue this addition, and if possible increase the suggested addition to include the area west of St. Mary's River, Camp Creek, and the headwaters of Canyon Creek. This is wonderful country which should be protected as wilderness. 152-1

We feel also that potential wilderness lands should be managed as wilderness until final designation has been made. The Jarbidge area has attracted people who wish to use off-road vehicles, and this should be discouraged. Such high-desert landscapes are particularly vulnerable to vehicle damage.

Please protect this beautiful area. Generations in the future will be very grateful.

Sincerely yours,
Nancy Hopkins
Mrs. Samuel Hopkins
Box 974,
Carmel Valley,
CA 93924

152-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

MEC
MINERALS
EXPLORATION
COALITION
Minerals Advocate
In Public Policy

12640 West Cedar Drive
P.O. Box 15638
Denver, Colorado 80215
303/989-5567

Reply to:
☑ Denver, Colorado
☐ L. C. Lee

Washington Representative
L. Courtland Lee
3814 West Street
Landover, Maryland 20785
301/322-3762

#153

SEP 30 1985

September 27, 2985

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Ronald P. Graves
Forest Planner
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

The following comments constitute the response of the Minerals Exploration Coalition (MEC) to the proposed Land and Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) of the Humboldt National Forest. The MEC represents companies and individuals engaged in exploration for minerals on the federal lands.

The MEC supports the National Forest management goals of multiple use, giving consideration to renewable resources and nonrenewable resources, such as minerals, as prescribed in 36 CFR, part 219.1, (b), (1) and (2). We further support the minerals management goals and objectives given on page IV-9 and IV-10 of the proposed management plan of the Humboldt National Forest Plan. We are pleased to see among the goals and objectives, statements such as:

> "Integrate the exploration and development of mineral and energy resources on the Forest, with the use and protection of other resource values."

> "Expedite the exploration and development of mineral resources for the needs of the public within environmental constraints."

> "The major impacts from mining activity are associated with distrubance caused by construction of roads and drill pads. These impacts are generally short lived and can be mitigated with proper reclamation requirements. Reclamation practices are proving to be successful in returning distrubed areas to productive status." (Page IV-54)

153

SEP 30 1985

Ronald P. Graves
September 27, 1985
Page Two

These statements indicate a positive attitude toward mineral activities and acceptance of the fact that impacts can be successfully mitigated. This is in contrast to other forest plans which approach minerals activities with rigid controls to lessen what is perceived as irreparable damage to the other forest resources. MEC has long advocated that minerals activities and other forest activities can be carried out with proper plans and administration by competent professional land managers.

We believe that sufficient minerals data has been collected and weight given to mineral resources to meet the specifications of 36 CFR part 219.22. The descriptions of locatable, leasable and saleable minerals shown on pages II-16 to II-22 in the plan include descriptions of individual producing mines, numbers of unpatented mining claims and oil and gas leases, the part of the Forest that is currently producing and the part where future production may be expected to occur with emphasis on significant exploration areas and expected future conditions of exploration and production. Reference is made to maps showing mining districts, location of mines, claims and areas of mineral potential that are available at the Humboldt Forest planning office. Minerals are included in each of the management area plans. In the DEIS, the minerals situation and the availability of land for mineral exploration is described on pages III-26 to III-34 as part of the "Affected Environment".

In the DEIS, minerals are included in determining the present benchmarks, and a dollar value is given along with resources for each of the planning alternatives. Would you give a brief description of how the values shown on Table II-1, particularly recreation and wilderness, are derived? 153-1

The Minerals Exploration Coalition opposes the inclusion of areas of high and moderate mineral potential in wilderness areas because the opportunity to explore for and produce minerals is prohibited, except where prior existing rights can be shown. The boundaries of the wilderness study areas that include moderate to high mineral potential should be changed to exclude the mineralized areas, or the area should not be recommended for wilderness designation. The areas recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative that include significant mineral values are: Mount Moriah, Wheeler Peak, Ruby Mountains (central zone), Grant Range (particularly the north and south ends), and Jarbidge (particularly the west half). 153-2

153-1 The values presented in Table II are summaries of the benefit values generated from our Foreplan analysis. These values are in 1982 dollars discounted 4 percent. An indepth discussion of the values can be found in Appendix B.

153-2 We agree with your concern of including areas of high mineral potential within the boundaries of recommended wilderness areas. All of the recommended wilderness areas you mentioned have had boundary modifications excluding areas of high mineral potential.

153 CONT. COMMENTS

SEP 30 1985

153

Ronald P. Graves
September 27, 1985
Page Three

We are concerned that the required mineral surveys conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Bureau of Mines have not been completed in the Ruby Mountains and the Grant Range, thereby creating a lack of minerals information that is normally available before wilderness decisions are made. 153-3

We are pleased to note that the Zone Geologist with degrees in geology and geophysics and many years of experience is a member of the Forest Interdisciplinary Team and on the List of Preparers of the Humboldt Forest Plan. This individual seems to have made significant contributions to the information on minerals and has added balance to the plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this forest plan.

Sincerely,

John D. Wells

John D. Wells

JDW/dlm

RESPONSES

153-3 The Forest Service has indicated that it prefers to see the designation of the Grant Recommended Wilderness delayed pending the outcome of the mineral survey currently being conducted by the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey. The mineral survey report on the Ruby Mountains was to be incorporated into our final recommendations on this area.

#154

SEP 30 1985

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS TASK FORCE
NEVADA OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

September 26, 1985

P.O. Box 1245
Carson City, Nevada 89702

Mr. B. J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

This organization, representing 394 members nationwide, desires to have its comments and input recorded in the draft Land and Resource Management Plan for Humboldt National Forest.

First, we would like to express our concern for the deteriorating range conditions on our Federal lands in the Great Basin. | 154-1 We are inclined to support guidelines for preservation of ancient Pinus longaeva(Bristelcone pines). | 154-2 We are concerned about the growing menace of off-road vehicles, adverse impacts(that have been very grave for years) in USFS riparian sites. The latter have been subjected to severe grazing abuse are require new and more strict management. | 154-3

Concerning wilderness, this organization urges the following:

(1) Jarbidge Mountains--54,000 acres which includes Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creeek, and the area west of St. Mary's River. | 154-4

(2) Elk Mountain--this magnificent forest area in the NE corner of the state needs special habitat protection. At one time it was a prime elk habitat--and could be again with proper replanting of elk and strict enforcement against poaching. | 154-5

(3) Santa Rosa Mountains--is one of the best Owyhee Desert wildlands in Nevada. It contains critical forest and grassland headwaters of the Quinn and Little Humboldt Rivers. It is part of a newly discovered vast system of canyonlands now known to contain perhaps the nation's most important predatory bird raptors. 80,000 acres in recommended. | 154-6

(4) Ruby Mountains--150,000 acres is the minimum for one of Nevada's true Ice Age glacial masterpieces--an area of classic cirques, moraines, alpine lakes, cascades and lofty peaks. There area is noted for wilderness packing, fishing and wilderness recreation. | 154-7

(5) East Humboldt Range--this organization first participated in the 1960s land exchanges that took place here. We supported the concept, provided these spectacular glacially carved peaks and lakes were preserved. We urge 30,000 acres. | 154-8

(6) Pearl Peak--this rare and unusual, as well as ancient Bristlecone pine area is also well known as a critical watershed for wide area and contains extensive wildlife habitat. We urge 23,000 acres for wilderness. | 154-9

-continued-

154-1 Please refer to response number 86-7.

154-2 Please refer to response number 14-15.

154-3 Please refer to response number 86-13.

154-4 Please refer to response number 8-5.

154-5 Please refer to response number 8-11.

154-6 Please refer to response number 8-12.

154-7 Please refer to response number 8-4.

154-8 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined th
East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of
integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recre
Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been
effectively in excluding most of the private land and those
having existing or potential uses that would be in conflic
wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decisi
recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wild
designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's
Plan.

154-9 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilde
designation which have a high degree of opportunity for sol
and primitive type recreation. It is our determination th
Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degr
solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunit
primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision n
recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

SEP 30 1985

Draft Land and Resource Management Plan/Humboldt Nat'l. Forest page 2

154

(continued)

(7) South Schell Creek Range--120,000 acres is truly appropriate for one of Nevada's best Rocky Mountain landscapes. Ridges and peaks ranging above timberline reach 11,800 feet. It is also an area rich in native fisheries and wildlife habitat, as well as virgin forests. 154-10

(8) Mount Moriah--12,000 acres encompasses a huge dome of towering limestone. This massif supports varied cactus gardens at its lower elevations, winding and deep gorges with virgin pines & spruce, groves of ancient bristlecone pines, trout streams and archeologically significant "amberst" style caves. 154-11

(9) Wheeler Peak--this 120,000-acre wildland in the Snake Range contains the most famous groves of bristlecone pines. One, over 5000 years old was deliberately cut down in August 1964 by a USFS ranger--to prevent area's preservation. It remains a terrible black mark on USFS history; one that can now be alleviated by wilderness designation. This area contains the Great Basin's only known active glacial phenomena, rare forest types(Douglas fir, Jeffrey pine)--and still ancient groves of Pinus longaeva in a rare quartzite ecology. The area has stunning natural arches, jewel-like lakes and deep canyons. Mount Wheeler at 13,061 ft. is Nevada's 2nd highest peak. What more needs to be said? ....except that this RARE-II area must include Highland Ridge. 154-12

(10) Current Mountain--this 49,000 acre area epitomizes the ecology of the interior Great Basin. It has natural systems "in between" the high Sierra Nevadas to the West and the Rocky Mountains to the East. This lofty limestone ridge is hallmarked by serrated ridges, rugged and deep limestone cliffs and gorges. It is also critical bighorn sheep, mule deer and probably elk habitat. 154-13

(11) Grant Range--60,000 acres is needed here to protect exceptional limestone peaks known to contain over 200 species of wildflowers, ancient(perhaps the largest known) Bristlecone pines--plus virgin forms of other forest types. It is also critical bighorn sheep habitat. 154-14

(12) Quinn Canyon Range--is a key connected ridge to the Grant Range wildlands complex. We note that it was recommended by the USFS in 1973 and has been protected ever since. It should be given a 95,000 designation for permanent wilderness. 154-15

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Watson

Charles S. Watson, Jr.
Director

154-10 Please refer to response number 61-7.

154-11 Please refer to response number 8-2.

154-12 Please refer to response number 8-1.

154-13 Please refer to response number 8-3.

154-14 Please refer to response number 14-11.

154-15 Please refer to response number 8-7.

SEP 30 1985

#155

P. O. Box 518
Ely, Nevada 89301
September 27, 1985

Mr. B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mtn. City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Bob:

I have reviewed the forest Land and Resource Management Plan. It appears to be well written and should guide the forest in the next few years. I personally doubt that it will even be remembered in fifty years, but the Congress said it would.

I have a few comments to make on the overall plan. Unless you plan on issueing individual packets for each management area, I would think all of the management decisions that pertain to the entire forest could be listed at the begining of the plan instead of being repeated over and over again. This is in reference to the repetitious statements such as "respond to notices of intent within 15 days and operating plans within 30 days". These are SOP and just take up space. 155-1

Some specific comments: Page 7 of the Overview and page 56 of the DEIS state that 409 cultural sites have been inventoried and recorded and that an estimated 40 thousand remain to be inventoried. Page II-7 of the forest plan states that 625 sites have been recorded and 57 thousand remain to be inventoried. Which figure is correct? 155-2

Table IV-4 Projected Average Annual Costs for the Forest Plan indicates a decrease in costs in the out-years. I would think that if the plan is followed, there would be a gradual increase in costs to meet the demands, such as full service in the wilderness area, and maintenance of re-constructed campgrounds. Even placing all of the grazing allotments under intensive management will result in increased costs to monitor them. Just the cost of doing business will increase. 155-3

Under the direction for the Jarbidge Management Area, Page IV-162, A04 states: Evaluate Deer Creek Cave." This cave is located on Public Domain and not on National Forest. 155-4 Also on the same page, A02 states "Sites in vicinity of Pole Creek will be relocated --". Does this mean they were not recorded earlier, or are they to be moved? Just think a little clarification is needed. 155-5

Page II-24 shows Wheeler Peak Scenic Area as having 2800 acres. I believe this is a typo, as there are 28,000 acres in the area. 155-6

My ideas on wilderness are probably not popular with the public and maybe not with the administration. Now that the mining road in Big Wash has been destroyed by natural causes, I would think that the Bristlecone proposed wilderness boundary could be adjusted to include all of the Scenic Area on the southern end. This would result in a better defined boundary and would certainly aid in protection of the area. 155-7

155-1 We agree with your recommendation. Management direction, standards and guidelines that were repeated within the management area sections have been condensed into a restructured Forest-wide section.

155-2 The number of inventoried cultural sites you referenced on page 7, of the overview, and page 5-6 of the DEIS, were incorrect. The figures have been changed to the correct figure of 625.

155-3 Table IV-4 was calculated using 1982 dollars. There was no built-in factor for inflation. It is anticipated that all major construction or reconstruction will take place earlier in the planning horizon circumventing the need for increasing budgets.

155-4 You are correct. The Deer Creek Cave is located on Public Domain land. The reference to the cave has been corrected within the Final Plan.

155-5 We agree that this statement is confusing. It has been reworded in the Final Plan. These sites have been previously identified but the locations were not properly identified and/or the sites were not thoroughly evaluated.

155-6 Wheeler Peak Scenic Area does have 28,000 acres instead of the 2,800 acres. The incorrect acreage figure has been corrected in the Final Plan.

155-7 The boundary for the recommended Bristlecone Wilderness Area has been extended south to include all of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Area.

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Page 2

I do not know the administrations reasoning for the Grant wilderness proposal, but I do not think this area should be recommended at this time. The increase in oil exploration in Railroad and Garden Valleys and the recent discoveries of oil reserves would indicate that the north end of the Grants may have high potential for future oil production. The geologic structure in that area does not preclude finding oil pockets at higher elevations. In fact, most geologists believe there is just as much potential on top of the range as there is down in the valley. Designation as wilderness would create more problems than it would solve. Also, I know of outcroppings of galena that usually indicate the presence of minerals. I would recommend that the Grant area be dropped from consideration for wilderness. 155-8

I appreciate the opportunity to review the plan. Any further comments I may have would just be nit-picking. Like I said earlier, I believe it is well written and provides very good direction for future administrators.

There is one area that was not really addressed that I have been aware of for some time, and it is of some concern to me. This is the present move to combine services with the Toiyabe NF. It almost seems as though it is just the first step toward combining the forests. If this happens, how valid is this plan going to be in the future? I'm just expressing a thought. 155-9

Anyway, thank's again for letting me review the documents.

Sincerely,

Jack Wilcox

RESPONSES

155-8 Please refer to response numbers 2-1 and 14-11.

155-9 The potential for national forests to be combined within the State of Nevada was not addressed in the Plan. This FEIS/Plan will be valid regardless of what office administers the Humboldt National Forest.

#156

SEP 30 1985

September 16, 1985

B.J. Graves
Forest Supevisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

COMMENTS ON HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN :

To Whom it may concern,

I have received a copy of the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. I have not been able to read the entire plan do to it's voluminous nature. I have read one section which I am strongly opposed to and would like to take this opportunity to file an official objection. 156-1

Page IV-151, section "Sc" and the section "S" immediately following. The wording of these items are clearly designed to elliminate helicopters from the proposed Wilderness Areas. I am strongly opposed to this concept for 2 reasons.

1) A " No Helicopter " policy would cause Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski to go out of business. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski has been operateing in the proposed Wilderness Area for 8 years. During this period a perfect safety record has been maintained and every Forest Service inspection was passed with honors.

Helicopter skiing is very compatible with Wilderness in the remote Ruby Mountains, but on a national basis helicopter skiing is considered a "nonconforming use". None of the proposed Nevada Wilderness Bills have Ruby Mountain Wilderness boundaries similar to the Wilderness boundaries proposed by the U.S.F.S.. In view of this Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski should be allowed continued use of the Ruby Mountains until a Wilderness Bill is actually passed.

2) A "No Helicopter" policy is contrary to the very goals which the Forest Plan is intended to achieve.

Page IV-1, Recreation Goal #1 states "Provide a broad range of outdoor recreation opportunities for all segments of the public". Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski is in the business to do exactly this.

156-1 Please refer to response numbers 118-1 through 118-3.

156 CONT. COMMENTS

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Whether transporting Boy Scouts in a Snow Cat, flying local cross country skiers to the top of the Rubies for a $50 fee or provideing a helicopter skiing experience for an adventurous Texan. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski provides a broad range of recreational services to all segments of the population without disturbing the winter environment.

Recreation Goal #2 states "Maintain existing developed site facilities". The bathroom building at the head end of Lamoille Canyon is maintained by Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski during the winter. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski cleans, maintains, discourages vandalism and uses the bathroom building for storage of emergency supplies.No other site facilities are used, as all of the activity takes place in the back country.

Recreation Goal #3 states "Encourage private enterprise to develop desired recreation opportunities adjacent to the Forest". Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski is this type of enterprise. From conducting cross country ski lessons on flat ranch lands to attracting hundreds of out of state people to our quaint country inn. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski develops recreation adjacent to the Forest.

Recreation Goal #4 states "Provide a broad spectrum of dispersed recreation opportunities". Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski accomplishes this better than any other imaginable enterprise. By means of helicopter all of our activities are extremely dispersed.

Recreation Goal #5 states "Increase emphasis on management of dispersed recreation opportunities". Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski conducts an extensive marketing campaign. In fact Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski has introduced more households to the spectacular Ruby Mountains than any other organization. When people visit Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski every activity is managed professionally, every person signs in and all information is made available to the U.S.F.S..

Recreation Goal #6 states "Provide a trail system adequate for administrators, permitees and the recreating public to travel to and within the National Forest both summer and winter". During the winter months trails do not exist, they are covered with snow. Helicopter skiing requires no trails.

Recreation Goal #7 states "Provide a system of managed cross-country ski and snowmobile trails with adequate trailhead facilities". Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski is in the best position to manage or assist in manageing such a system. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski personnel are in the mountains every day and have exceptional mobility.

Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski has a $100,000.00 Snow Cat which grooms

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Regarding trailhead facilities, Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski is prepared at all times to perform a rescue where ever needed. This is somthing only the most sophisticated trailhead facility could provide.

Recreation Goal #8 states, "Provide opportunities for the use of motor vehicles where they will not unacceptably impact Forest resources or unnecessarily impact other Forest users". During the permitted winter months helicopters and/or snow cats never touch the actual ground of the Forest. These vehicles touch only the snow, therefore there is no impact to the Forest and only a brief amount of noise pollution to Forest users which are rarely in the area during the winter.

Recreation Goal #9 states, "Provide for a pleasing visual landscape in the Humboldt National Forest". Where as Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski operates only on snow, the landscape remains visually pleasing.

Recreation Goal #10 states, " Protect the cultural resources located on Humboldt National Forest from land-disturbing activities and public vandalism". As previously stated Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski does not disturb the land. In fact the activities of Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski reduce the number of occurances of major avalanches which have an extremely distructive effect on the landscape.

The presence of Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski discourages vandalism. For example, no summer cabins have been vandalized in the winter since Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski personnel have been frequenting the cabin area (2 years).

Recreation Goal #11 states,"Preserve the natural ecosystems in the proposed Research Natural Areas". Again, Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski operates on the snow and has no effect on the ecosystems, other than the reduction of avalanches which destroy entire ecosystems.

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In summary, Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski has operated professionally in the proposed Wilderness area for 8 years. Every Recreation

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Sincerely,

Hugh Scott
Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski
Stockholder / Customer
119 Golden Gate Ave.
Belvedere, Ca. 94920

#157

SEP 30 1985

September 16, 1985

B.J. Graves
Forest Supevisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

COMMENTS ON HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN ;

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157 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

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Sincerely,

David Pinkham
Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski
Stockholder / Customer
655 Sutter St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94102

#158

SEP 30 1985

September 16, 1985

B.J. Graves
Forest Supevisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

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158 CONT. COMMENTS

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Sincerely,

Paul Minasian
Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski
Stockholder / Customer
P.O. Box 1679
Oroville, Ca. 95965

SEP 30 1985

#159

September 16, 1985

B.J. Graves
Forest Supevisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

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Sincerely,

Mike Flinn
Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski
Stockholder / Customer
3323 #1 Union Square
Seattle, Wa. 98101

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#160

September 16, 1985

B.J. Graves
Forest Supevisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

COMMENTS ON HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN :

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160-1 Please refer to response numbers 118-1 through 118-3.

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Vernon Taylor
Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski
Stockholder / Customer
1050 17th St.
Denver, Co. 80265

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#161

September 16, 1985

B.J. Graves
Forest Supevisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

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- 1 -

161-1 Please refer to response numbers 118-1 through 118-3.

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Sincerely,

David Bowers

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Guide
Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski
P.O. Box 1172
Lamoille, Nv. 89828

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September 16, 1985

B.J. Graves
Forest Supevisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

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Sincerely,

Bob Bieno
Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski
Stockholder / Customer
414 13th St. 7th floor
Oakland, Ca. 94612

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September 16, 1985

B.J. Graves
Forest Supevisor
Humboldt National Forest
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Sincerely,

customer

Ken Ambrose
Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski stockholder

1050 Ralston
Belmont, Ca. 94002

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#164

September 16, 1985

B.J. Graves
Forest Supevisor
Humboldt National Forest
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Regarding trailhead facilities, Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski is prepared at all times to perform a rescue where ever needed. This is soething only the most sophisticated trailhead facility could provide.

Recreation Goal #8 states, "Provide opportunities for the use of motor vehicles where they will not unacceptably impact Forest resources or unnecessarily impact other Forest users". During the permitted winter months helicopters and/or snow cats never touch the actual ground of the Forest. These vehicles touch only the snow, therefore there is no impact to the Forest and only a brief amount of noise pollution to Forest users which are rarely in the area during the winter.

Recreation Goal #9 states, "Provide for a pleasing visual landscape in the Humboldt National Forest". Where as Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski operates only on snow, the landscape remains visually pleasing.

Recreation Goal #10 states, " Protect the cultural resources located on Humboldt National Forest from land-disturbing activities and public vandalism". As previously stated Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski does not disturb the land. In fact the activities of Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski reduce the number of occurances of major avalanches which have an extremely distructive effect on the landscape.

The presence of Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski discourages vandalism. For example, no summer cabins have been vandalized in the winter since Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski personnel have been frequenting the cabin area (2 years).

Recreation Goal #11 states,"Preserve the natural ecosystems in the proposed Research Natural Areas". Again, Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski operates on the snow and has no effect on the ecosystems, other than the reduction of avalanches which destroy entire ecosystems.

Recreation Goal #12 states, Coordinate recreational programs with local, county, state and other federal recreation agencys. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski is always trying to work with different agencys and would be interested in working more closely in the future.

In summary, Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski has operated professionally in the propoesed Wilderness area for 8 years. Every Recreation

164 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

SEP 30 1985

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goal of this Plan is compatible with the operations of Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski should be allowed to operate as it has always operated until a Wilderness Bill is passed.

Sincerely,

Steve Wyatt
Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski
Stockholder / Customer
3315 Marquart #200
Houston, Tx. 77027

#165

SEP 30 1985

September 16, 1985

B.J. Graves
Forest Supevisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

COMMENTS ON HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN :

To Whom it may concern.

I have received a copy of the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. I have not been able to read the entire plan do to it's voluminous nature. I have read one section which I am strongly opposed to and would like to take this opportunity to file an official objection. 165-1

Page IV-151, section "5c" and the section "6" immediately following. The wording of these items are clearly designed to elliminate helicopters from the proposed Wilderness Areas. I am strongly opposed to this concept for 2 reasons.

1) A " No Helicopter " policy would cause Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski to go out of business. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski has been operateing in the proposed Wilderness Area for 8 years. During this period a perfect safety record has been maintained and every Forest Service inspection was passed with honors.

Helicopter skiing is very compatible with Wilderness in the remote Ruby Mountains, but on a national basis helicopter skiing is considered a "nonconforming use". None of the proposed Nevada Wilderness Bills have Ruby Mountain Wilderness boundaries similar to the Wilderness boundaries proposed by the U.S.F.S.. In view of this Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski should be allowed continued use of the Ruby Mountains until a Wilderness Bill is actually passed.

2) A "No Helicopter" policy is contrary to the very goals which the Forest Plan is intended to achieve.

Page IV-1, Recreation Goal #1 states "Provide a broad range of outdoor recreation opportunities for all segments of the public". Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski is in the business to do exactly this.

165-1 Please refer to response numbers 118-1 through 118-3.

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Whether transporting Boy Scouts in a Snow Cat, flying local cross country skiers to the top of the Rubies for a $150 fee or provideing a helicopter skiing experience for an adventurous Texan. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski provides a broad range of recreational services to all segments of the population without disturbing the winter environment.

Recreation Goal #2 states "Maintain existing developed site facilities". The bathroom building at the head end of Lamoille Canyon is maintained by Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski during the winter. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski cleans, maintains, discourages vandalism and uses the bathroom building for storage of emergency supplies.No other site facilities are used, as all of the activity takes place in the back country.

Recreation Goal #3 states "Encourage private enterprise to develop desired recreation opportunities adjacent to the Forest". Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski is this type of enterprise. From conducting cross country ski lessons on flat ranch lands to attracting hundreds of out of state people to our quaint country inn. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski develops recreation adjacent to the Forest.

Recreation Goal #4 states "Provide a broad spectrum of dispersed recreation opportunities". Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski accomplishes this better than any other immaginable enterprise. By means of helicopter all of our activities are extremely dispersed.

Recreation Goal #5 states "Increase emphasis on management of dispersed recreation opportunities". Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski conducts an extensive marketing campaign. In fact Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski has introduced more households to the spectacular Ruby Mountains than any other organization. When people visit Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski every activity is managed professionally, every person signs in and all information is made available to the U.S.F.S..

Recreation Goal #6 states "Provide a trail system adequate for administrators, permitees and the recreating public to travel to and within the National Forest both summer and winter". During the winter months trails do not exist, they are covered with snow. Helicopter skiing requires no trails.

Recreation Goal #7 states "Provide a system of managed cross-country ski and snowmobile trails with adequate trailhead facilities". Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski is in the best position to manage or assist in manageing such a system. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski personnel are in the mountains every day and have exceptional mobility.

Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski has a $100,000.00 Snow Cat which grooms

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the canyon road for enhanced snow mobileing and cross country skiing. The Snow Cat also cuts trails in the snow in the Dollar Lakes area. These trails are used extensively by snowmobilers and skiers. In the future Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski plans to set special cross country tracks.

Regarding trailhead facilities, Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski is prepared at all times to perform a rescue where ever needed. This is somthing only the most sophisticated trailhead facility could provide.

Recreation Goal #8 states, "Provide opportunities for the use of motor vehicles where they will not unacceptably impact Forest resources or unnecessarily impact other Forest users". During the permitted winter months helicopters and/or snow cats never touch the actual ground of the Forest. These vehicles touch only the snow, therefore there is no impact to the Forest and only a brief amount of noise pollution to Forest users which are rarely in the area during the winter.

Recreation Goal #9 states, "Provide for a pleasing visual landscape in the Humboldt National Forest". Where as Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski operates only on snow, the landscape remains visually pleasing.

Recreation Goal #10 states, " Protect the cultural resources located on Humboldt National Forest from land-disturbing activities and public vandalism". As previously stated Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski does not disturb the land. In fact the activities of Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski reduce the number of occurances of major avalanches which have an extremely distructive effect on the landscape.

The presence of Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski discourages vandalism. For example, no summer cabins have been vandalized in the winter since Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski personnel have been frequenting the cabin area (2 years).

Recreation Goal #11 states,"Preserve the natural ecosystems in the proposed Research Natural Areas". Again, Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski operates on the snow and has no effect on the ecosystems, other than the reduction of avalanches which destroy entire ecosystems.

Recreation Goal #12 states, Coordinate recreational programs with local, county, state and other federal recreation agencys. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski is always trying to work with different agencys and would be interested in working more closely in the future.

In summary, Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski has operated professionally in the proposed Wilderness area for 8 years. Every Recreation

- 3 -

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goal of this Plan is compatible with the operations of Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski should be allowed to operate as it has always operated until a Wilderness' Bill is passed.

Sincerely,

Joe Royer

Joe Royer
Vice President / Owner
Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski
P.O. Box 1176
Lamoille, Nv. 89828

SEP 30 1985

#106

332 Spring Creek Pkwy.
Elko, Nevada 89801
Sept 27, 1985

Dear B. Graves,

Please accept the following as my opinion + comment on the Humbolt National Forest Land + Resource Management Plan (Draft).

I) Wilderness

A) Jarbidge Additions include Camp Creek + headwaters of Canyon Creek and country west of Mary's River — 54,000 acres 166-1

B) Grant expand to total of 60,000 acres +, thus, provide better protection for bighorn sheep 166-2

C) Quinn 95,000 should be designated 166-3

D) Currant Mt (Duckwater) — 47,000 acres 166-4

E) Wheeler Peak — include the Highland Ridge + old road from upper campground to Johnson Lake 166-5

F) Elk Mt. — 12,500 acres is prime wilderness 166-6

G) Mt. Moriah — Need to include southeast portion for 78,000 acres 166-7

H) South Schell — 120,000 acres is worthy of wilderness status 166-8

I) Pearl Pk. extend boundary southeast for 27,000 acres total 166-9

J) East Humbolt private land in [illegible] - Basin should be acquired by purchase + 30,000 acres protected as wilderness 166-10

K) Ruby Mts. enlarge to include Northern portion for 150,000 acres total 166-11

L.) Santa Rosa — 50,000 acres need 166-12

continue

166-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

166-2 Please refer to response number 10-11.

166-3 Please refer to response number 8-7.

166-4 Please refer to response number 8-3.

166-5 Please refer to response number 8-1.

166-6 Please refer to response number 8-11.

166-7 Please refer to response number 8-2.

166-8 Please refer to response number 61-7.

166-9 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

166-10 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final P

166-11 Please refer to response number 8-4.

166-12 Please refer to response number 8-12.

166 CONT. COMMENTS

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COMMENTS		RESPONSES
Your alternative K is a subsidy to the livestock industry; you do NOT place emphasis enough on wildlife and specifically No good plan for improving & saving riparian habitat.	166-13	166-13 The preferred alternative offers a particular management strategy necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives identified within the Forest Plan. It emphasizes a multiple use philosophy, a mix of both market and non-market uses and outputs. The plan provides for improved habitat for wildlife and improved range condition for livestock. Please refer to response number 86-13 on riparian areas.
Deer population has been on decline since 1960's because Forest Service has embarked on planned manipulation to benefit Livestock industry with resulting vegetative change That have reduced carrying capacity of Forest for deer.	166-14	166-14 Please refer to response number 135-2.
Alternative A is essentially my preferred plan although I realize it is politically doomed but its wildlife provision should be incorporated into your preferred Alternative.	166-15	166-15 Please refer to response number 86-29.
I would suggest you adopt as a guide "The Best Management Practices for Management + Protection of Western Riparian Stream Ecosystems" published by the American Fisheries Society. You have long neglected riparian habitat + need to take some serious effort to improve + protect; our National Forests are not meant to be barnyards! Sincerely,	166-16	166-16 We have reviewed the publication you referred to and have incorporated its concepts in the Final Plans as part of the standards and guidelines.

SEP 30 1985

# 167

3386 Bell Avenue
Elko, Nevada 89801
September 30, 1985

Humboldt National Forest Supervisor
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Sir:

I would like to voice my support for wilderness designation as outlined in the Forest Management Plan in the East Humboldt Range, Ruby Mountains North and South, Pearl Peak, Santa Rosa Mountains, Mount Moriah, North and South Schell, Wheeler Peak, Quinn Range, Jarbidge Mountains and Elk Mountains. 167-1 thru 167-10

I believe alternative A of the Forest Plan is the best for Nevada's needs.

I would also like to see more positive steps taken in managing and restoring riparian habitat on National Forest lands as we have lost some good trout stream habitat - especially in the O'Neil area. 167-11

The Nevada Department of Wildlife recommends that a good guide to manage streams is contained in a paper entitled "The Best Management Practices for Management and Protection of Western Riparian Stream Ecosystems". I recommend that the United States Forest Service adopt this guide. 167-12

Yours truly,

Alfred Plank

167-1 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

167-2 Please refer to response number 8-4.

167-3 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate 'level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

167-4 Please refer to response number 8-12.

167-5 Please refer to response number 8-2.

167-6 Please refer to response number 61-7.

167-7 Please refer to response number 8-1.

167-8 Please refer to response number 8-7.

167-9 Please refer to response number 8-5.

167-10 Please refer to response number 8-11.

167-11 Riparian area management is a concern of the Forest and has been addressed in the plan under objectives, management direction and standards and guidelines. Positive steps will be taken in restoring and maintaining riparian habitats.

You expressed concerns about the loss of trout stream habitat in the O'Neil area. We are not sure if you were referring to

National Forest lands but the streams that we are concerned with in the O'Neil area are Sun Creek, Camp Creek and Mary's River. There was extensive flooding in 1983 due to a heavy snow pack that was 200% of normal. The trout habitat was heavily impacted and it will take many years for the streams to stabilize and become productive again. We have done some work in Mary's River to create pools for better fishery habitat.

167 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

167-12 Please refer to response number 166-16.

[illegible]

#168

Merlin McColm
P. O. Box 1362
Elko, Nevada 89801
September 30, 1985

Mr. Robert Graves
Humboldt National Forest Supervisor
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Bob:

I have received the Humboldt National Forest Management Plan and have the following comments:

Most Nevadans that live in Elko County are outdoor people. They love the wildlands and the recreation they provide. Rural Nevada has always had plenty of open space and wildlands. Until recently it seemed rather pointless to designate specific areas as Wilderness as Nevada had so much defacto wilderness. Many rural Nevadans wonder why things can't remain as in the past, without the wilderness designation and their cumbersome restrictions. However, the world is changing and Nevada is changing with it.

Thirty years ago a person needed a horse to cover much of Nevada's back country. No more. The proliferation of four-wheel drives, all-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes, snowmobiles, ultra-light aircraft and helicopters make it possible to reach every nook or cranny in the state in a few minutes or a few hours at most. Population projections for Nevada indicate we will be a state of several million people by 2010 with a corresponding increase in demand for high quality outdoor recreation. In this fast growing state Elko

168 CONT. COMMENTS

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Page 2

County is the fastest growing of the 17 counties. With this human population expansion, land use problems are accelerating. Any sensitive person that has seen the ravages of a large open pit mining operation would want to spare our most beautiful wild areas from this fate. Improper livestock grazing over extensive areas of Nevada's public lands are also a continuing threat. Wilderness status improves the chances for a better livestock management program.

I recommend the following areas for wilderness:

East Humboldt Range	3-226/C
Pearl Peak	3-228
Ruby Mountain North	3-227
Ruby Mountain South	4-367
Santa Rosa	3-229
Mount Moriah	4-382
North and South Schell	4-354 and 4-355
Wheeler Peak	4-359
Quinn	4-360
Jarbidge	4-372
Elk Mountain	4-374

168-1 thru 168-11

Forest Plan A is the one I prefer omitting the wilderness proposals except for those listed.

I would like to see a stronger position taken on riparian habitat and believe a paper published by the American Fisheries Society entitled, "The Best Management Practices for Management and Protection of Western Riparian Stream Ecosystems", would be a good guide line for a reparian management program. 168-12

Sincerely,

Merlin A. McColm

RESPONSES

168-1 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

168-2 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

168-3 Please refer to response number 8-4.

168-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

168-5 Please refer to response number 8-12.

168-6 Please refer to response number 8-2.

168-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

168-8 Please refer to response number 8-1.

168-9 Please refer to response number 8-7.

168-10 Please refer to response number 8-5.

168-11 Please refer to response number 8-11.

168-12 Please refer to response number 166-16.

#169

OCT 1 1985

A. GRANT GERBER
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR
1000 LAMOILLE ROAD
ELKO, NEVADA 89801

Telephone
Area Code 702
738-9258

September 30, 1985

B.J. Graves
Humboldt National Forest Headquarters
U.S. Forest Service
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

RE: FOREST SERVICE PLAN (WILDERNESS)

Dear Mr. Graves:

Having reviewed the proposed Forest Plan, I have come to the following conclusions and would request your response to these issues.

169-1 The Forest Service came up with nine possible plans. None of the nine plans provide for an increase in livestock numbers until in the 1990's. That is unreasonable. The forage throughout the Humboldt Forest is in better condition than presently rated by the Forest Service and livestock numbers should be increased.

169-2 Much of the Humboldt National Forest is surrounded by private land but throughout the Forest Plan that fact is not acknowledged. References throughout the plan lead individuals reviewing the plan to the conclusion that all of the wildlife which reside on the Forest Service lands for part of the year are totally sustained by the Federal Government. This is not correct. It should be specifically pointed out in the plan that a significant proportion of the wildlife are resident on private land during the Winter and Spring, especially, which is the most critical time for wildlife. It should also be pointed out that, especially in the Ruby Mountains and the East Humboldt Range, much of the land which people are led to believe is National Forest is actually one-half private. Therefore, even during the Summer months, the wildlife are using private ground equally with National Forest Land. The Forest Plan Overview on Page 7 totally ignores the contribution of private lands while applauding the cooperation efforts of Federal and State Agencies in regard to Wildlife. There should be acknowledgment in both the overview and in the plan itself which specifically indicate that without the contribution of the private lands some species would be virtually non-existent and without the cooperation of the private land owners the management of the wildlife would be virtually impossible.

169-1 Livestock use does not show a net increase until the 1990's because indications are some ranges on the Forest are overstocked. Other ranges are in the process of having livestock use increased. These matters are dealt with on a case by case basis, but a net increase in total livestock use on the Humboldt National Forest is not foreseen until the 1990's.

169-2 Your concern about inadequate acknowledgement of private land within the East Humboldt and Ruby Mountain's Management Areas has already been addressed in the descriptions of those areas in the Proposed Forest Plan, pages IV-84 and IV-114. Both descriptions break out acres of National Forest system land and acres of private land and make specific reference to how this complicates resource and land management.

The discussions on deer habitat will be changed to point out that a great deal of deer winter range is located on private land. However, the Forest Plan can only discuss management practices (in cooperation with NDOW) that will take place on National Forest System lands, since the Forest Service can not accomplish habitat improvement projects on private land.

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OCT 1 1985

B169

B.J. Graves
September 30, 1985
Page 2

169-3 We have been told that the Forest Service opposes the fencing of riparian areas because that will cause damage at pressure points and will result in poor management. The plan should state that position.

169-4 From my review of the numbers utilizing the camp grounds and my knowledge of the present growth of the local area and expected growth, it appears to me that the camp ground facilities have to be expanded and improved to meet the needs for the future. It appears that the present plan does not properly address and provide for that.

A comment which we receive from Forest Service employees, in discussing the management of the National Forests, is that there is presently sufficient authority for the Forest Service to properly manage these lands and no additional authority needs to be given. All elected bodies within the State of Nevada who have formally addressed the issue have either voted that there should be no additional Wilderness other than that presently in the Jarbidge Wilderness or have supported the Laxalt, Hecht, Vucanovich Bill. The Laxalt, Hecht, Vucanovich Bill adds approximately 23,000 acres of additional Wilderness to the Jarbidge Wilderness with no other Wilderness designation within Elko County and with approximately 110,000 additional acres throughout the remainder of the State. The people of Nevada have spoken clearly on this issue through the Nevada Legislature, County Commissions, City Councils, etc. The Forest Service should comply with the wishes of the people by recommending no more Wilderness than that proposed in the Laxalt, Hecht, Vucanovich Bill. The Forest Service should do everything possible to administer the land as multiple use rather than Wilderness until a bill is actually passed by the U.S. Congress. 169-5

169-6 The proposed plan should specifically be changed in regard to Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski in Section 4, Page 151, where it is indicated that Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski will be eliminated. There are many in the local economy who will be directly affected if this goes into effect since the area which the Forest Service is intending to eliminate is utilized heavily by Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski. As many individuals in the Forest Service have indicated, the present designation of scenic area is sufficient to adequately protect the area and to give the public the greatest possible use of the area.

Very truly yours,

A. GRANT GERBER

AGG/das

RESPONSES

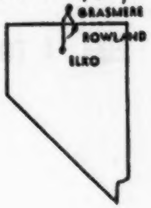
169-3 Riparian area management will be dealt with on a case by case basis. The majority of the riparian areas on the Forest are in satisfactory condition, thereby indicating existing management will meet current habitat maintenance requirements. Problem areas will be addressed individually and an appropriate management strategy devised. Fencing is seen, at the present time, as a last resort effort. It will not be used indiscriminently on all riparian areas. Forest-wide standards and guidelines express this.

169-4 The Proposed Plan calls for increasing the service level of developed recreation facilities and intensifying recreation management on both the East Humboldt and Ruby Mountains Management Areas to meet the increased demands you predict.

169-5 There is no doubt that wilderness will continue to be an emotional issue in Nevada. National Forest System Lands provide many opportunities to the American public. Wilderness is one of these opportunities. The Forest Service wilderness recommendation is an administrative review identifying lands with high wilderness values that could be considered for wilderness designation. The Forest Service must manage these lands to preserve these wilderness characteristics until Congress actually passes legislation or the Forest Plan is approved. Those areas excluded from wilderness designation by Congress or excluded from the Forest Service recommendation in the plan will then be released to nonwilderness uses.

169-6 Your comments concerning the Ruby Mountain heli-ski operation have also been addressed. The boundary of the recommended wilderness has been adjusted to exclude the area used by the heli-ski operators.

OCT 1 1985



#170

HOWARD RANCHES, ~~INC~~.

ROWLAND, NEVADA • 378 WALNUT STREET
Via ~~GRASMERE~~ Bruneau, IDAHO ~~83615~~ [illegible] • ELKO, NEVADA 89801
TELEPHONE ROWLAND ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] • (702) 738-6801

September 29, 1985

United States Forest Service
Humboldt National Forest Service
Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Sirs:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the management plan alternatives for the Humboldt.

I have been involved in grazing on and around the Humboldt for over thirty years. The Forest Service can take great pride in the job they've done throughout the years. A good percentage of the Forest Service personnel have really been concerned for the resource rather than strictly career advancement.

The range was in good condition in 1953 when I first saw it and since that time it has improved.

The alternative that I looked for and failed to find in this mammoth work would be to gradually and voluntarily decrease funding and personel to the 1950 level. Considering the financial condition of the country today it would be both patriotic and innovative. 170-1

Most of the alotments are in management plans now, so the heavy work is mostly done and the plans only need to be monitored occationally for trend of range conditions. Permittees would accept the responsibility for maintaining or improving each alotment with a little advice from Forest Service technicians. 170-2

Most of the problems in riparian areas would be automatically solved with proper range management. Grazing or not grazing may not solve the worst of these. I can show anyone some terrible riparian wrecks caused 100% by beaver. If riparian problems were persistent there should be a panel made up of ranchers who know the history of the area and Forest Service technicians to come up with practical solutions. 170-3

170-1 Alternative E - Constrained Budget provides for custodial management and was considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. It is a logical approach to a reduced budget alternative. It would be impractical to fund at the 1950 level because demands on personnel have increased along with our responsibility in meeting those demands.

170-2 You are correct that grazing permittees currently accept and share the responsibility for maintaining and improving the allotments and most are under approved management plans. As the grazing plans are implemented, we are shifting our management emphasis to range monitoring to insure that the goals and objectives of the allotment management plans are being met. The Forest Plan provides for an adequate work force to meet monitoring requirements.

170-3 Many riparian problems would be solved with proper range management. You are correct that riparian problems can sometimes be attributed to causes other than livestock. In these cases, the livestock operator is not held directly accountable but can and often does assist in resolving the situation. Your suggestion that there be a panel of ranchers and Forest Service technicians to come up with practical solutions to persistent riparian problems is a function of the Grazing Advisory Board. You are encouraged to continue to work individually with the District Ranger and his staff in dealing with these situations.

170 CONT. COMMENTS

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Page 2

During some seasons the wildlife of Nevada could not survive without the use of private land. In reading through this plan it seems the Forest Service is much more concerned with wildlife than domestic livestock. Private landowners should be given credit for all they contribute to the welfare of wildlife. 170-4

There are already several government agencies involved in measurement of water and snow. GOAL # 31 and 34 would only duplicate work and expense. 170-5

GOAL # 40: Inventory and exploration of minerals should be left 100% to the private sector. 170-6

GOAL # 22, 23, and 24 are worthwhile projects for the Forest Service and should be pursued with vigor. 170-7

Respectfully,

Kent Howard

Kent Howard

RESPONSES

170-4 You are correct that private landowners make a substantial contribution to the welfare of wildlife, especially on winter range. It is true that wildlife and livestock were both among the nine major public issues addressed in the plan. The preferred alternative (alternative K), calls for an increase in AUM's by the end of the planning horizon along with maintaining or improving wildlife habitat. Therefore, we feel that we have given equal emphasis to wildlife and livestock.

170-5 In goal # 31 our intention is to quantify a minimum flow necessary to maintain a stream system on the National Forest for the protection of fisheries, wildlife, range resources, and the consumptive uses of water such as campgrounds and to protect this minimum flow from other potential uses of the water. There is no other Federal Agency involved in these types of measurements. In goal # 34 our intention is to monitor water quality to the extent necessary to insure that we are meeting state water quality standards.

170-6 In goal # 40 we do not propose to inventory or to explore for mineral and energy resources. We propose to integrate these activities with the use and protection of other resources by:

A. Providing for Interdisciplinary Team input for development proposals of private companies to insure that mineral activity is accomplished in an environmentally acceptable manner.

B. Completing mineral evaluations for land exchange cases etc.

C. Administering sales and free use of common variety minerals as needed.

170-7 We appreciate your endorsement of goals # 22, 23, and 24.

#171

OCT 1 1985

3760 East Idaho
Elko, Nevada 89801
October 1, 1985

Humboldt National Forest Supervisor
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Sir:

The other day I saw an article in the Elko Free Press that indicated Elko County was the fastest growing county in the State. We need to protect our beautiful wild areas now before it is too late. I approve of the following wilderness areas in your Forest Plan:

East Humboldt Range, Ruby Mountains North and South, Pearl Peak, Santa Rosa Mountains, Mount Moriah, North and South Schell, Wheeler Peak, Quinn Range, Jarbidge Mountains and Elk Mountains. 171-1 thru 171-10

I believe Alternative A with the wilderness areas listed as the best way to manage the forest lands. I would also like to see our streams and the vegetation along them better managed. In many cases the cows eat all the vegetation and cause erosion and damage to the streams. 171-11

Sincerely,

Charlotte Nott

171-1 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

171-2 Please refer to response number 8-4.

171-3 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

171-4 Please refer to response number 8-12.

171-5 Please refer to response number 8-2.

171-6 Please refer to response number 61-7.

171-7 Please refer to response number 8-1.

171-8 Please refer to response number 8-7.

171-9 Please refer to response number 8-5.

171-10 Please refer to response number 8-11.

171-11 Please refer to response number 86-13.

172 COMMENTS

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#172

NEVADA MINING ASSOCIATION

Committee on Wilderness

c/o CR EXPLORATION COMPANY
755 Greg Street
Sparks, Nevada 89431
(702) 331-4001

September 27, 1985

Mr. B. J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humbolt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

RE: Comments on the Proposed Humbolt Forest
Land and Resources Management Plan

Dear Mr. Graves:

The purpose of this letter is to provide official comment by the Nevada Mining Associates and its members on the Humbolt National Forest proposed Land and Resources Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

GENERAL

The Nevada Mining Association is extremely disappointed that the U.S. Forest Service did not perform a minerals or energy resource evaluation prior to development of the Draft EIS and the proposed forest plan. To develop any semblance of a comprehensive land and resource management plan, energy and minerals resource values must be determined and weighed with other values. The Association views the lack of this data and failure to incorporate minerals and energy data in the Draft EIS and proposed forest plan as fatal flaws in these documents and their land use recommendations. 172-1

RESPONSES

172-1 Minerals and energy values were used in developing and comparing alternatives. As discussed in the "Analysis of the Management Situation" and DEIS the Forest was evaluated and qualitative ratings compiled for minerals/energy potential. These ratings were an integral part of the roadless area evaluation.

In addition, the benefits to local, county, and state economies derived from minerals/energy activities were used in calculating outputs and benefits for the alternatives.

The Toiyabe as you indicated in your letter, calculated a dollar value which they extrapolated to the entire Forest to derive a "per acre dollar value". For development and evaluation of alternatives we determined this extrapolated figure was not necessary. Mineral/energy values were thoroughly considered by

172 CONT. COMMENTS | RESPONSES

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Mr. B.J. Graves -2- September 27, 1985

It is recommended that the Forest Service develop the data required and revise the documents using this data (the Toiyabe National Forest's minerals evaluation, is suggested as a model). 172-1

The Nevada Mining Association is unopposed to the creation of the following wilderness areas in the Humbolt National Forest; Jarbidge Extension, Ruby Mountains, Mount Moriah. The Association is opposed to the creation of any additional wilderness areas, due either to their high potential for production of minerals and energy commodities (Grant, Quinn, Highland Ridge) or their current adequately protected status as a scenic area (Wheeler Peak). 172-2

172-2 In the Forest's DEIS, nine alternatives with varying management emphasis and a broad range of recommended wilderness acreages were comparatively evaluated. We feel that the "Preferred Alternative", presented as the Humboldt National Forest's Plan, provides a mix of resource outputs, including areas open to mineral exploration and development and wilderness acreage, that best meets the overall needs of the public.

Areas of high mineral potential were excluded from wilderness recommendation in the Final Plan.

The Association believes the minerals management portion of the plan governing physical activities on Forest Service lands is essentially reasonable with the exception of the visual quality objectives. Specific comments on the plan and the Draft EIS follow.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

A. Land and Resource Management Plan

Page II-8 - Wilderness

As stated above, the Association is unopposed to the creation of the Jarbidge Extension, Ruby Mountains and Mount Moriah wilderness areas, but opposes all other recommendations and wishes all other lands in the Humbolt Forest returned to multiple use management. 172-2

Page II-16-21 - Minerals

Under Section a."Minerals Land Suitability (2) Capability" the document states;

"The Forest Service does not determine which areas are capable of minerals or energy production. Capability is determined by industry which responds to trends in the market place. Present technology and economics preclude extraction of some known 172-3

172-3 All of the Forest has been categorized for locatable, leasable, and salable mineral potential. Discussion of areas and their mineral potential ratings is included in the "Analysis of the Management Situation" which is available to the public at Forest headquarters in Elko, Nevada.

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Mr. B.J. Graves -3- September 27, 1985

mineral deposits. Mineral uses and needs are determined by new or existing technologies and by demand based on the need for certain minerals within the market place. The difficulty in predicting where new mineral deposits may be found leads to the conclusion that areas capable of mineral or energy exploration and development may someday include the entire Forest".

172-3 The Nevada Mining Association believes the above statement represents a fatal flaw in the Humbolt Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Large sums of U.S. taxpayer dollars have been spent in determining recreation, wilderness, wildlife and fish, range, timber and water values and incorporated these into the Draft EIS and Proposed Forest Plan. As mineral and energy production can often represent the greatest dollar value use of Forest Service lands, categorization and evaluation of the minerals and energy values of the Humbolt Forest lands is essential before a meaningful plan or EIS can be completed. While minerals and energy predictability is not perfect, reasonable predictions based on known energy and ore occurrences and need can be made. Much of the necessary reserves data has already been compiled by the Nevada Bureau of Mines, the United States Geological Survey, or the U.S. Bureau of Mines. The Association requests that the Humbolt Forest Service Draft EIS and proposed plan be modified to include this data.

172-3 See response 172-3 above.

Page IV-9 - Minerals

The Association supports the Forest Service goals and objectives as outlined in this section.

Page IV-12 - Under Goal #45

172-4 Goal #45 appears to be vague and poorly worded especially when consideration is given to the objectives. Objectives a and b are clear, but objectives c and d are very vague and appear to have the potential for damaging the minerals industry. The Association requests that goal #45 be restated to clearly define its intent and that objectives c and d be stricken from the plan as written.

172-4 Objective b under goal #45 has been moved to the Minerals section as part of Goal #40.

The intent of objectives c and d is to withdraw special interest areas such as Research Natural Areas, administrative sites, and developed campgrounds from mineral entry.

Objectives c and d have been combined and re-written to clarify their intent. They have also been made a part of Goal #40.

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Mr. B.J. Graves -4- September 27, 1985

Page IV-18 - Visual Quality

172-5 Mining, oil and gas drilling and production and minerals related exploration activities appear to be incompatible with any of the visual quality objectives described except for maximum modification as defined in this section. The visual quality goals or restrictions as related to the mining and energy industries are never stated in this section. As written, these proposed regulations can be used to place onerous and prohibitively expensive constraints on minerals and energy extraction from Forest Service lands. The Association requests either:

A. The entire section be deleted as arbitrary and capricious or

B. The visual quality regulations as they relate to minerals and energy extraction be clearly stated for review.

172-5 The definitions for visual quality objectives are included in the glossary. Therefore, the section on visual quality was deleted as being repetitive.

Page IV-28 - The Minerals Management (Locatables)

172-6 The Association strongly objects to paragraph f. The Association believes existing laws adequately provide for prevention of abuse of the mining laws and believes administration of such is outside, and indeed, beyond the capacity of the Forest Service. This paragraph should be stricken from the proposed plan.

172-6 Paragraph f has been deleted. However, validity examinations and resolution of illegal occupancy of claims are within the realm of responsibility of the Forest Service as shown in many court cases and in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service.

Page IV-46 - Minerals, Bonding

172-7 Some provision for the small miner relative to reclamation bonding is required. The mining law currently allows only certain types of activities for assessment work. If the inability to acquire a reclamation bond due to financial status prevents performance of assessment work, then the Forest Service policy prevents compliance with the Federal Mining Law. This constitutes denial of a real property right without due process of law. The Association suggests that the Forest Service establish a lower limit, such as $5,000, below which reclamation bonding will not be required. An alternative would be to require bonding only for disturbances of five acres or more. Either of these solutions would provide much greater equity to access to minerals without significantly damaging surfaces values.

172-7 Your statement that Forest Service policy prevents compliance with the mining law is incorrect. Reclamation of surface disturbance and mitigation of adverse impacts to surface resources are reasonable conditions of prospecting and thus should be considered as a cost of doing business.

172 CONT.

172

Mr. B.J. Graves -5- September 27, 1985

COMMENTS			RESPONSES
Page IV-73 - and elsewhere where appropriate - Minerals The Association object, to the following "(5) require a reclamation bond when appropriate" - See Above	172-7		Standards and guidelines are included in the Final Plan which state that reclamation standards and bonding must be reasonable and practicable. Past experience has shown that operators do not voluntarily reclaim areas they are not obligated to reclaim. Thus, requiring performance bonds for reclamation seems to be the proper way to conduct business.
The Association is strongly opposed to validity exams under the following subjects: "b. Claim is illegally occupied or used (trespass)." "c. Claim occupies land needed for administrative or public purposes." "d. Claim assessment work is causing unacceptable surface disturbances with little prospect of valid discovery." All of the above are very arbitrary and capricious reasons for validity exams and presuppose greater knowledge of the mineral values by the Forest Service than the operator. In actual practice, these types of regulations have been used to illegally evict mining operators from their claims in other forests. The Mining Association believes such validity exams are entirely outside of the Forest Service's legal and practical expertise. These clauses should be stricken from the management plan.	172-8	172-8	Item b has been deleted in the Final Plan. The validity examination is no longer routinely used for occupancy cases. Occupancy questions are now resolved by reviewing the operating plan to determine whether the occupancy is actually necessary to the operation. The question is then resolved through Federal Regulations (CFR 261) and civil action. Validity examinations would be performed under conditions "c"and "d" outlined in your letter only in the most extreme circumstances and after consultation and negotiation with the claimant. Items c and d have been revised to clarify this intent.
B. Draft Environmental Impact Statement Page III-26 See Comment above on Capability (Page II-16)	172-9	172-9	Please refer to response number 172-3.

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Mr. B.J. Graves -6- September 27, 1985

Thank you for the opportunity to present these comments on the Humbolt Forest proposed plan and Draft EIS. It is hoped that these suggestions will be given serious consideration in radrafting this document.

Sincerely yours,

Bradford A. Mills
Chairman, Committee on Wilderness
Nevada Mining Association

BAM/cm

cc: Senator Paul Laxalt
Senator Chic Hecht
Congresswoman Barbara F. Vucanovich
Congressman Harry Reid
Governor Richard H. Bryan
NMA Wilderness Committee Members

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#173

Sept. 30, 1985

Dear Mr. Graves,

This letter is to urge you to support and expand your designations of Wilderness areas on Humboldt Forest land for the state of Nevada. I have a few related comments, also, in regard to the Humboldt National Forest Plan.

Overall, I find the plan lacks severely in trail building/maintenance. Apparently this is occurring while roads are being planned + built at the cost of wildland preservation and at the behest of commercial interests. This citizen opts for the least impact upon the ecology, so LESS ROADS, MORE TRAILS! 173-1

One way to start is to rehabilitate Johnson Lake Road above Shoshone campground in the South Snakes. 173-2 While we're on the subject area, let's designate 120,000 acres as the Wheeler Peak area, which I know to be more than a place to see, but one to be experienced. It touches/embraces the hearts of all who go there. 173-3 I also support its companion to the north, Mt. Moriah, for its 98,000 acre, proposed area. 173-4

I support 49,000 acres of Currant Mountain, 173-5 60,000 acres of the Grant 173-6 and 95,000 acres of the Quinn Canyon Ranges. 173-7 They are places I have yet to see yet have heard of glowingly.

How the [illegible] 173-8

173-1 One of the goals of the land management plan is to provide a trail system adequate for administrators, permittees and the recreating public for summer and winter use (goal # 6). The miles of trail scheduled to be reconstructed and maintained has been increased in the Final Plan.

173-2 The road between the Shoshone Campground and Johnson Lake in the Snake Creek drainage has been closed to vehicular access. It will remain open as a trail.

173-3 Please refer to response number 8-1.

173-4 Please refer to response number 8-2.

173-5 Please refer to response number 8-3.

173-6 Please refer to response number 14-11.

173-7 Please refer to response number 8-7.

173-8 Please refer to response number 8-8.

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pg 2 173

out is beyond me. I believe you must have felt their majesty by simply driving up Lamoille Canyon. 150,000 acres makes this a big one, though remember, Nevada is a big state. I support 30,000 acres in the East Humboldts and 23,000 acres for Pearl Peak to support our investment in this range. 173-9 173-10

As yet, I have seen the South Schell only from the campground in Berry Creek (I think, the one next canyon south of Timber Creek). I was so pleasantly amazed at the green + woods of this area. I would like 120,000 acres protected as wilderness. 173-11

12,500 acres of Elk Mountain is OK. by me for the sportsmen. 173-12

For Jarbidge, I would recommend 54,000 acres added. It's where a start for Nevada Wilderness was made, let's protect what we have! Please. 173-13

I recommend designation of 80,000 acres of the Santa Rosas because, beyond all other reasons, they are mountains which are truly a local's Nevada, stark, big and emanating inviting your heart to open. 173-14

Please consider these things and thank-you.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen Fayne

173-9 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

173-10 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

173-11 Please refer to response number 61-7.

173-12 Please refer to response number 8-11.

173-13 Please refer to response number 8-5.

173-14 Please refer to response number 8-12.

174 COMMENTS

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September 29, 1985

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Supervisor Graves:

It is my desire to have you recommend the following roadless areas for wilderness designation:

Jarbidge Additions, to include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and the country west of St. Mary's River for a total of approximately 54,000 acres. 174-1

Santa Rosa Mountains, to include approximately 80,000 acres for raptor protection and wilderness values. 174-2

Elk Mountain, to include 12,500 acres of pristine wildlife habitat. 174-3

Ruby Mountains, to be enlarged to include the northern portion of the range for a total of 150,000 acres. 174-4

East Humboldt Mountains, to include private land by purchase in Acker Basinfor a total of 30,000 acres. 174-5

Pearl Peak, to include a boundary extended to the southeast for a total of 23,000 acres. 174-6

South Schell Creek Range, to include 120,000 acres protecting the magnificent high country. 174-7

Mount Moriah, to be expanded to include the southeast portion of the roadless area for a total of 98,000 acres. 174-8

Wheeler Peak, to include Highland Ridge in a 120,000 acre proposal incorporating the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake. 174-9

Currant Mountain, to include 49,000 acres. 174-10

Grant Range, to be expanded to 60,000 acres to provide greater protection of habitat for the bighorn sheep population. 174-11

Quinn Canyon Range, to include your Rare II thinking in an area of 95,000 acres. 174-12

Thank you for taking the time to include these comments in your consideration of the draft plans.

Sincerely,

Dave Hampton

Dave Hampton

RESPONSES

174-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

174-2 Please refer to response number 8-12.

174-3 Please refer to response number 8-11.

174-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

174-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

174-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

174-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

174-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

174-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

174-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

174-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

174-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

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9/26/85 175

R.J. Grace
Humboldt Nat'l Forest
976 Mountain City Hwy,
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr Grace:

I am writing this letter in support of wilderness for the following roadless areas:

1. Ruby Mountains - please enlarge the Forest Service's proposal to include the northern portion, thus leaving a wilderness of 150,000 acres. 175-1
2. East Humboldt - please acquire private land in the Deker Basin to give a more well-rounded wilderness area. 175-2
3. Mount Moriah - please enlarge the Forest Service proposal to include the southeast portion of the roadless area, thus totaling @ 98,000 acres of wilderness 175-3
4. Wheeler Peak - Please include the Highland Ridge & include the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake. This wilderness area should thus total @ 120,000 acres. 175-4
5. Elk Mountain - please include @ 12,500 acres of this roadless area into Wilderness. 175-5
6. Grant Range - Please expand the boundaries to include 60,000 acres. This will aid to protect the desert bighorn sheep for wilderness. 175-6
7. Santa Rosa - please recommend @ 80,000 acres for wilderness. 175-7

The above-stated areas are prime examples of recreational & wildlife roadless areas that should be protected for future!

175-1	Please refer to response number 8-4.
175-2	In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.
175-3	Please refer to response number 8-2.
175-4	Please refer to response number 8-1.
175-5	Please refer to response number 8-11.
175-6	Please refer to response number 14-11.
175-7	Please refer to response number 8-12.

175 CONT. COMMENTS

generations in their present form. I strongly oppose the construction or reconstruction of any roads or development near the roadless areas listed herein. 175-8

Please include the above-stated areas into the wilderness system. Please do not look to the short-term development suggestions, but think of how great these areas are & will be for present recreational use & future use in their natural states.

Please write me of your decisions regarding the areas listed herein, I await your review & response.

Very truly yours—

Bill Davis
2731 17th Street
Sacramento, CA
95818

RESPONSES

175-8 **Please refer to response number 14-14.**

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OCT 1 1985

NEVADA WILDLIFE FEDERATION, INC.
An Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation
530 EAST SAHARA AVENUE / LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89104

301 Fred E. Wright
1122 Greenbriar Drive
Sparks, Nevada 89431

September 27, 1985

Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Hwy.
Elko, NV. 89801

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Nevada Wildlife Federation (NvWF), I
have reviewed the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource
Management Plan (Proposed Forest Plan). As we are not in a
position to do any in depth technical analysis of the Plan,
I will limit ours to general comments. I assume that others
who are familiar with on the ground issues will have more
specific comments.

Basically we feel the Humboldt National Forest is an
asset to Nevada and contains very valuable and scenic lands.
From the Plan I learned that recreation visitor days in 1983
amounted to 579,000 days for many different purposes. One of
these purposes is sportsman recreation-hunting and fishing.
It is acknowledged in the Plan that over half of Nevada's
annual deer harvest occurs on the Humboldt Forest and that many
other species of game plus trout fishing are available. I
also noted that the Humboldt ranks first in the Intermountain
Region and sixth in the nation in producing forage for live-
stock. Further there are 18 sheep and 181 cattle permittees on
the Forest.

Under Issues I see that (pg.III-1#2) wildlife habitat in-
cluding aquatic will be maintained and wildlife populations
will be maintained. Grazing, resources, issue 4, provides
that the plan is to "subsequently increase livestock numbers".
Goal 14(pg.IV-4) is to maintain the current level of wildlife
habitat and Goal 16 (pg.IV-5) is to"maintain satisfactory
ranges and improve ------lessthan satisfactory (ranges)."

In Chapter IV Forest Management Direction (pg.IV 84)
occurs a statement "Grazing of domestic livestock is the most
prominent single use occuring in the management area." Again,
on pg.IV-160 it says "Livestock grazing will continue to be
the major use of the Area."

176-1 These references indicate that since the forest ranks so
high in livestock forage production, and in spite of the
biggame and other wildlife values that the favored direction
of the Plan is to improve livestock forage production and
maintain a status quo on wildlife habitat. It is generally
acknowledged that all the beef produced on all western public
lands, forest and public domain, is an insignificant percent
of the total red meat production in the United States. Further

CONSERVE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

176-1 Please refer to response number 86-1.

176 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

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when one compares the 570,000 visitor days with less than 200 livestock permittees and the apparent slant of the Plan toward livestock forage production, wildlife interests should be concerned. 176-1

Then the Plan offers another slant in Goal 18 (pg.IV-6) "Manage livestock to recognize the special needs relating to wet meadows and riparian areas and fisheries habitat" and Goal 19 "Reduce conflicts between livestock and wildlife for forage on key winter ranges." Both are encouraging.

Further, under Management Practices the direction (pg.IV-96) is to "Reduce conflicts between livestock and wildlife." Under Management Prescription; Range(pg.IV-116) "Optimize production and utilization---and provide for multiple use of the range." The wildlife management prescription here is inclusive and emphasizes "coordination between resources as a means for increasing habitat improvements." Another management prescription (pg.IV-258) wildlife and fish states, "conflicts from other uses will be minimized to maintain and improve where possible qualitiy wildlife and fisheries habitat----." The range prescription is to impart "maintain an active range program that is compatible with other resource uses. Then on (pg.IV-495), Management direction, it states "Range improvement projects will be initiated only after they have been evaluated by an I.D. Team and NDOW."

The desired future condition of the Forest provides in essence that wildlife and fish habitat will be improved through coordinated management with other resource programs and the carrying capacity of biggame winter and summer ranges and upland game summer ranges will be improved.

These references, that apply to different levels of the Plan, are encouraging in that perhaps wildlife and livestock may be sharing the Plans attention, rather than dominance by one use. It does not seem necessary to say in the Plan that livestock use is the most prominent (as in predominate?) use or the major use of an area. In who's opinion? Certainly not the deer hunter or recreationists. Economically livestock production and hunting and fishing contribute to Nevada's economy and we need viable productive ranges that support all values. Therefore, it would be advisable to declare what the predominate goal of the Forest is in regard to future trend in wildlife habitat and how wildlife and livestock forage production are to be managed by integrated resource programs, thereby bearing on all the various other statements. 176-2

The Plans treatment of riparian habitat is good and we concurr in the statement (pg.II-6) "Riparian areas and wetlands make up a small percentage of the ---total acres. The relative value of these small scattered riparian areas far exceeds that of the surrounding lands." The forest-wide standards and guidelines for riparian area management are good and reasonably inclusive. 176-3a

176-2 References to livestock as the major use of an area may be interpreted as a subjective statement, but it is based on the fact that livestockmen have been highly visible users of the Forest since the mid to late 1800's. Livestock are intensively managed, and in comparing the amount of livestock use on the Humboldt to other National Forests, they are a "major use" of the Humboldt.

176-3 Thank you for your support of our riparian, wilderness, and water rights programs.

176 CONT. COMMENTS

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In regard to S & G - Range Management (pg.IV-27b) "Consolidate administration responsibilities on Common National Forest System Land and Public Domain", sounds ominous in light of the Interchange Proposal, therefore that point should be more specific if it is not interchange; which we do not support. 176-4

The NvWF supports the wilderness areas proposed in the Plan. We also support the Forest water right direction for the future as a firm and necessary program. 176-3b

There is a need for additional public access referenced on pg.IV-84 for the East Humboldt Management Area, as is the case elsewhere in the forest. Therefore Goal #43 regarding public access could be strengthened (pg.IV-11) to better support the desired future condition of the forest (pg.IV-47) of acquiring access rights-of-ways. 176-5

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Forest Plan.

Sincerely,

Fred E. Wright
Fred E. Wright
Legislative and Issues Representative

RESPONSES

176-4 The statement referring to "consolidating administration responsibilities" has been deleted. The intent is to integrate range management on National Forest allotments with contiguous BLM, State and/or private lands where possible.

176-5 The need for increased public access on the East Humboldt Management Area has been recognized. Goal # 43 is considered sufficient for a Forest-wide goals; Management direction under the East Humboldt Management Area is very specific on improving access.

177 **COMMENTS** **RESPONSES**

OCT 1 1985

177

1835 Clarence Ln
Reno Nv 89512
Sept 28, 1985

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Hiway
Elko Nv. 89801.

Dear Mr. Graves,

Congratulations on writing an excellent forest service plan, however please expand it to include; Camp Creek and the headwaters of Canyon Creek in the Ruby's; Elk Mountain; the Santa Rosas (truly impressive and close enough to growing urban areas to be used by weekend hikers from Reno, Fallon, etc) Pearl Peak, the Highland Ridge in Wheeler Peak area (stop the road at the upper campground), Currant mountain; and that areas for the following be studied and reviewed as wilderness

177-1 thru 177-6

177-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

177-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

177-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

177-4 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

177-5 Please refer to response number 8-1.

177-6 Please refer to response number 8-3.

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Quinn Canyon	95,000 acres
Grant Range	60,000 acres
Wheeler Peak	120,000 acres
Mount Moriah	98,000 acres
South Schell	120,000 acres
Ruby Mountains	150,000 acres

Thank you
Terry Woodin

177-7	177-7	Please refer to response number 8-7.
	177-8	Please refer to response number 14-11.
thru	177-9	Please refer to response number 8-2.
	177-10	Please refer to response number 61-7.
177-11	177-11	Please refer to response number 8-4.

OCT 1 1985

William A. Nisbet
540-13th Street
Elko, Nevada 89801

178

Spetember 30, 1985

U. S. Forest Service
Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Sirs,

I am requesting that your forest plan for the Ruby Division of the Humboldt National Forest delete the proposed elimination of enterprises such as the Ruby Mtn. Hel-Ski operation. This compatible use of certain forest lands in the winter months is one for which the community is proudto promote. 178-1

Sincerely,

William A. Nisbet

178-1 Please refer to response numbers 118-1 and 118-3.

OCT 1 198

9/26/85. 179

B.J. GRAVES

I AM A STRONG SUPPORTER OF OPEN ROADLESS AREAS. A FEW PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ADAPTING OUR OPEN WILDLIFE & ROADLESS AREAS TO INCLUDE ROADS AND CITY TOWNS.

LET US TOGETHER KEEP HUMBOLT NATIONAL FOREST AS OPEN AND FREE OF ROADS AS POSSIBLE. THAT IS THE TYPE OF AREA I GO TO BACKPACK. WITHOUT ROADS I CAN FOLLOW ANIMALS AROUND AND HAVE FUN WITH THEM. WE NEED SPECIAL PROTECTIONS OF THE 'BRISTLE CONE PINE' IN THIS FOREST. WE DO NOT NEED ROADS TO USE THE PARK FOR RECREATION. ALL YOU DO IS PARK AT DESIGNATED AREA AND WALK!!! 179-1

AREAS TO INCLUDE

1. JARBIDGE ADDITIONS - 54,000 ACRES. 179-2
2. ELK MOUNTAIN - 12,500 " 179-3
3. SANTA ROSA - 80,000 " 179-4
* 4. RUBY MOUNTAIN - 150,000 " "THE DREAM TRIP" 179-5
5. EAST HUMBOLDT 30,000 " 179-6
6. PEARL PEAK 23,000 " 179-7
7. SOUTH SCHELL 120,000 " 179-8
8. MOUNT MORIAH 90,000 " 179-9
9. WHEELER PEAK 120,000 " 179-10
* 10. GRANT RANGE 60,000 " 179-11
11. QUINN CANYON RANGE 95,000 " 179-12

ALL TO BE INCLUDED IN THE HUMBOLT NATIONAL FOREST

THANK YOU
THINK PEACE
PLEASE RESPOND

ARCHITECT
JIM HECKLER
14741 McCORMICK ST.
VAN NUYS, CA 91411
818 / 783-1148

179-1 Please refer to response number 14-15.

179-2 Please refer to response number 8-5.

179-3 Please refer to response number 8-11.

179-4 Please refer to response number 8-12.

179-5 Please refer to response number 8-4.

179-6 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

179-7 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

179-8 Please refer to response number 61-7.

179-9 Please refer to response number 8-2.

179-10 Please refer to response number 8-1.

179-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

179-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

180 COMMENTS

180

SMITH BROS. OX RANCH
RUBY VALLEY, NEVADA 89833
702-779-2293

7/9/85

Mr. [illegible]
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
Elko, Nevada

Dear Mr. [illegible],

We would appreciate a reply to the following questions:

1- Why does the Service intend to restrict livestock use of water courses, streams, and meadows in the land administered by it as described in the RMP. 180-1

2- Has the Service given thought to implementing the Stewardship Program? 180-2

3. Will the designation of 644,000 acres, or twice the acreage as proposed by some Congressmen, have a positive effect on the mountains of the Rubies and Nevada? 180-3 Will the Congressmen's desire of one and about one-half million acres increase the Wilderness in the Rubies? 180-4 Will turning 644,000 acres of forest land to wilderness bring about the end of the Forest Service and the proposed RMP? 180-5

RESPONSES

180-1 Grazing use along stream banks, meadows and other riparian areas will be in accordance with proper use criteria outlined in individual allotment management plans. Use of the forage resource will be specified according to how much grazing these areas can support to produce forage on a multiple use and sustained yield basis. There are no plans for wholesale restrictions of livestock use in the areas mentioned.

180-2 The stewardship program is an experimental program authorized by Congress. It is still in the testing phase and not open to general application and use by the land managing agencies, including the Forest Service.

180-3 Designation of any areas as wilderness will affect future management of the area because of some special wilderness management regulations. The Forest Service wilderness recommendation for the Rubies is 55,600 acres, while some groups are proposing as many as 84,000 acres in the Ruby Mountains. In any event, the character of the land is such that, regardless of any wilderness designation, existing land uses will not be changed appreciably.

180-4 As mentioned above, at the present time, the maximum wilderness recommendation for the Ruby Mountains is 84,000 acres.

180-5 Wilderness areas are designated by an Act of Congress. The Forest Service has been managing wilderness areas since 1964 and will continue to do so.

COMMENTS

SMITH BROS. OX RANCH
RUBY VALLEY, NEVADA 89833
702-779-2293

4 - Is there anything in the HNF Land & RMP that brings any hope to the frustrated livestock people? 180-6

5. Will the Forest Service's influence on us today remain the same 10 years from now? 180-7

6. How soon will a buffer zone be incorporated around the proposed wilderness areas? 180-8

We know you are busy finalizing the RMP but we feel the answers have a major bearing on future plans of our ranch operation. We have used our forest permit since 1947. Grand & great grandparents for 110 or more years have run cattle on the Rubies.

Thank you for your help.

Paul N Smith
PAUL N SMITH

RESPONSES

180-6 The Preferred Alternative for the Humboldt National Forest Plan shows an increase of AUM's for livestock through the planning period. In addition, the Ruby Mountain Management Area prescription will receive a high level emphasis for range management.

180-7 There will be little change in the way the Forest Service deals with or influences livestock permittees as a result of this plan.

180-8 Buffer zones are not used in the management of wilderness areas.

180

OCT 1 1985

SMITH BROS. OX RANCH
RUBY VALLEY, NEVADA 89833
702-779-2293

Sept. 1985

COMMENT ON HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

180A-1 We were very disappointed that the Forest Service has felt the need to follow the BLM Wells RMP where everyone was told that they could make a choice of one of the alternative plans and add their oral and written comments. This input and vote was supposed to improve or influence the FIS. As you well know this Wells RMP was a complete farce. I personally listened to the oral input and read the written comments which contained information that ~~should have~~ had been deleted by the time it was published in the FIS.

180A-2 We feel the HNF Land and RMP FIS will also be a farce. That the FS has no intention of incorporating any sincere practical comment supplied by the livestock, mineral, are other groups that are being stepped on by the HNF Land and RMP. 180A-3 The statement that this Resource Management Plan leaves us with the usual empty cold feeling we have experienced since 1947 when we purchased our ranch and permit. We have appreciated a few good HNF Service employees during the past 38 years. To think this RMP will govern our permit for the next 50 years is not a pleasant one.

180A-4 We demand the Humboldt National Forest personnel review the original oral and written comments given by the livestock people in the Wells FIS. We feel these people will not give similar input to the HNF Land and RMP because of the flagrant disregard shown by the BLM for any input offered by them. They are discouraged and feel tread upon because of the BLM farce.

180A-5 We are inclined to feel the HNF Service has shown it's colors by stating that:

1. The Service claims the water on land administered by it. The Service does not believe the state of Nevada owns this water.

180A-6 2. The Service feels thats should be 644,000 plus acres of Wilderness. Why? Does it want to put it'self out of business.

180A-7 3. In the first decade of the 1900's, the Service cond the livestock people here in Ruby Valley into having the Service administer the available forage along the Ruby Mountains. Now we are told this RMP will be placed upon our necks for the next 50 years. The Service has taken form the livestock people their vested right to graze their stock which they established in similar manner as the tenants who established squatter rights and homesteads.

180A-8 Where the Service thinks that it can take these established vested grazing rights by throwing them to the wind and placing upon the necks this HNF Land and RMP yoke and Wilderness Plan of 644,000 acres certainly brings to our attention the bit-in-the mouth course the Service is taking. We are thus lead to believe the Service will not consider any input by livestock people. 180A-9 It is plain to see that the Service wants to trade away all of it's Nevada Forests Lands. It has no interest in our permit or any permittee in Nevada. The Service has broken it's covenant which it made with the livestock people to help them keep their Forest grazing lands so they could make beneficial and wise use of them since the early 1900's.

Mr. Graves, you stated in one of your articles published in the Elko Free Pressthat people were only making minor use of the now established wilderness areas. Now the Service wants to increase the Wilderness areas. ten fold. Why?

180A-1	The Humboldt National Forest's land management plan does not "follow" any other previously released plan. It has been tailored to fit the unique characteristics of the Humboldt National Forest. Our plan was developed in cooperation with other Federal and State agencies and the public.
180A-2	The Humboldt National Forest has received over 200 comments on the draft plan including several from livestock permittees and representatives of the mining industry. We have responded to every comment and have incorporated many suggestions into the Final Plan.
180A-3	The last sentence of the plan states that the Plan will be revised when necessary but no later than October 1, 2000. The plan provides direction for resource management for a fifty year period with provisions to update the plan at ten year intervals.
180A-4	The comments made on the BLM Wells RMP were directed to that agency and that particular area of land. While the Forest Service cooperates with other agencies in the development of land management plans, the Humboldt National Forest has different resource values administered under a different set of regulations than the Wells BLM Resource Area and therefore requires an individual plan and comments directed specifically to the plan for the Forest.
180A-5	Please refer to response number 132-9.
180A-6	Please refer to response number 180-3.
180A-7	National Forests were reserved by acts of Congress in response to petitions from the public, including livestock men requesting such a designation.
180A-8	Please refer to response number 1 above and 180-3. Grazing of livestock allotments continues within designated wilderness areas.
180A-9	The Forest Service manages the land based on the multiple-use philosophy. We must find a balance among all the users who make demands on the resources. The Forest Plan's wilderness recommendation offers a fair compromise among these users. Please see response number 4-2.

OCT 1 1985

180

SMITH BROS. OX RANCH
RUBY VALLEY, NEVADA 89833
702-779-2293

Does the Service anticipate a 1000% increase in the number of people having the
money, free time and interest to make sufficient beneficial use of the proposed
644,000 Wilderness acres? How will grazing and minning fare in this large tract
acerage? Especially when the new administrators come up with the great idea
that there must be a buffer zone added to keep livestock from ruining the ecology? 180A-10
I don't imagine you could care less, You will be gone as will all the transit
Service people who drew up this RMP. They
certainly have no interest to the welfare of Elko Co. or the permittee, or the
miners. If it had not been for the miners, access to the NF lands would be very
limited. Because of their efforts we can enjoy a few hours on NF lands picnicing
in our favorite area. This would not be possible if the miners had always been 180A-11
forbidden to accomplish their objects as described in the management prescriptions.

We feel some of the wording of the "Prescriptions" are palnitable But there are words and phrases larger than bear traps that must be changed.

We feel there is nothing new or exciting about the RMP. It contains only the same old words, phrases, broken promises of the past. Are we actually supposed to believe all necessary grazing improvement projects are to be completed by 1988? At the rate the Service moves we suggest 2088 to be more correct. 180A-12

We believe a Stewardship Program would be a more superior way to improve and administer forest lands. 180A-13

Actually if anyone reads the constitution they could see the Service or BLM have no authority to administer or draw up mining RMP's for Nevada lands. We wish to extend to you a challenge to show error with our statements. 180A-14

We protest the fencing of all or any water sources and meadows which will only be death traps for livestock and deer. 180A-15

We feel the establishing of a large wilderness area will serve no useful purpose. The mountains, these areas will cover, have not appreciable changed in the last century, nor will the ecology change in the next 100 years on these mountains if no wilderness areas are forced upon the state of Nevada. The establishing of wilderness areas in the Rubies will not serve or benefit ranch families in any way. They will only discriminate against those physically incapable of hiking long distances into these areas. 180A-16

We feel everyone was caught at a very busy time and many livestock owners cannot find the time to squeeze in the reading, studying, and commenting on the vast RMP study.

SMITH BROS. OX RANCH

180A-10 Please refer to response number 8 above. Mining activities within wilderness areas may continue on valid claims, existing leases, and as specified within the language of the wilderness bill designating a particular area.

180A-11 The management prescriptions do not forbid miners to accomplish their objectives. Currently, 97.2% of the Forest is open to hardrock mining and 99.9% is available for oil, gas and geothermal leasing. Miners activities on National Forests must comply with our mining regulations, but otherwise, they are free to carry out exploration and development activities and are expected to continue to do so.

180A-12 The 1988 date you refer to, is the year we anticipate that all grazing allotments will be managed under approved plans. Range improvements are scheduled for completion throughout the 50 year period.

180A-13 Please refer to response number 180-2.

180A-14 Planning is conducted under authority of the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960 and the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (RPA), as amended by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA).

180A-15 Please refer to response number 169-5.

180A-16 Please refer to response number 9 above.

OCT 1 1985
Division of State Lands
State Land Office
State Land Use Planning Agency
(702) [illegible]

181

Address Reply to
Division of State Lands
201 S. Fall Street
Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of State Lands

September 24, 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

SUBJECT: Agency Comments on Wilderness in Proposed Forest Plan

Dear B. J.:

Our agency has reviewed the roadless areas in the Humboldt National Forest being considered for possible wilderness designation as presented in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Proposed Forest Plan for the Humboldt National Forest.

It is our opinion that the evaluation done by the United States Forest Service appears to be fair and reasonable. The areas proposed for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative seem to represent areas that are suitable for wilderness consideration. We note that much care has been given to eliminate those portions of these areas where resource conflicts may exist and where wilderness management could be difficult. In our evaluation, the preferred alternative seems to represent a good compromise between the various interest groups by providing ample areas having high wilderness value for wilderness preservation while reducing the areas where use of resource values would be impacted. 181-1

Pending later evaluation of the comments made by the other reviewers of the DEIS, our agency would agree that those areas presently proposed for wilderness consideration in the preferred alternative should be further considered and evaluated for wilderness designation. We will be happy to continue to participate in this evaluation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

P.B.W.

Pamela B. Wilcox
Administrator

PBW:JMD:jed

cc: John Walker, State Clearinghouse
Roland Westergard, Director

181-1 **Thank you for your support of our Land Management Plan.**

182

OCT 1 1985

Lamoille, Nevada 89828
September 28,1985

In regards to theHUMBOLT NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The plan shoild support for wilderness designation the plan recommended by Senators Laxalt,and Hecht and Congressman Vucanovich, increasing the Jarbidge wilderness and releasing all other study areas for multible use.

Most areas should be in Multible use to alow better management. The Forest Service with the help and cooperation of ranchers,miners and other users, are doing a good job of management now, but areas need inprovement back to the condition that existed in the past. This is more possible under multible use. Multible use can protect any areas needing protection better than under wilderness.

In the Management Area Direction. I am not familar with a lot of the areas. I am with the Ruby Mountain and Santa Rosa areas. In the Ruby Mountains it is good to manage for optimum production and utilization for livestock. This should read with restoration and improvement of deterited areas with other uses in mind.

In the Santa Rosa, the plan calls for the same level of output. It should be managed for greater level of output, as some of it is in bad shape now needing improvements, in cooperation with the users. The same must be true of other areas and management should be for more production in all uses of those areas.

The plan should support land exchanges which would allow better management in both lands when they are blocked up out of the checkerboard patern.

On accesses--Some more might be needed but careful consideration should be given where they are needed, and the impact of each one on that area, also on the persons from which they are aquired. In many cases the wilderness can be protected by limiting accesses. Limited access will also prtect the habitate of wild life. Trails on the Forest lands can be improved to provide better access to a lot of areas. The plan should not read two accesses a year.

The plan states that if there is conflict between livestock an recreation that livestock will be removed. This should not be. In some areas of high recreation use this might be reasonable but in other areas it should be in favor of livestock and they are a good management tool. In all cases it should read unresolvable conflict.

It is good that the plan will be amended as conditions change. We should have faith the future that people will take care of the problems as they appear. More of the problems should be studied with the help of livestock, wildlife people and other users.

Thank you for the chance of input into this plan.

Yours truly,

Jack H. Walther

Jack H Walther

182-1	182-1	The wilderness recommendations we make in the plan are in response to all of the input we have received from the public plus our ow evaluations of what would make suitable wilderness. At this time, we are not supporting any congressional bill. There are some changes in the Final Plan which reflects new comments made during the planning process.
182-2	182-2	We agree with your idea that restoration and improvement of deteriorated areas is needed. This is what the Plan calls for with an emphasis towards range management to achieve this.
182-3 182-4	182-3 & 4	The planning process calls for a tie-in between planning and budgeting. Looking at long term financing for the Forest, only very modest increases in budgets is expected. With this in mind, increasing output levels would be difficult. As already stated, the Plan calls for a slow but steady ecological improvement. In the life expectency of this Plan, which is ten years, it is doubtful we can do more than maintain our present levels of output.
182-5	182-5	Considerable emphasis has been placed on land exchanges particularly in the Ruby Mountains and East Humboldt areas. The Forest Plan will provide the basis for carrying out the exchange process.
182-6	182-6	Concerning access, it must be remembered that the two easements per year is a goal for the whole Forest. We have put careful consideration into how many and where they are needed. During the next ten year period, we will not be able to acquire the minimal critical easements needed.
182-7	182-7	The statement you refer to has been reworded to better express the intent.

183 COMMENTS

OCT 1 1985

Sarah Wondrin 183
1835 Clearacre Lane
Reno, Nev 89512
Sept 28, 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves,

Your forest service plan is very good, but adding the following areas would certainly be better: Camp Creek and the headwaters of Canyon Creek in the Jarbidge; 183-1
Elk Mountain; 183-2
the Santa Rosas (which are very impressive and close enough to urban areas to be used by hikers from Reno, Fallen, etc.) 183-3
Pearl Peak; 183-4
the Highland Ridge in Wheeler Peak area (stop the road at the upper campground); 183-5
Currant Mountain. 183-6
I'd also like the following areas to be revised as follows:

RESPONSES

183-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

183-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

183-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

183-4 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

183-5 Please refer to response number 8-1.

183-6 Please refer to response number 8-3.

OCT 1 1986

183

Grant Range	60,000 acres	183-7
Quinn Canyon	95,000 acres	
Wheeler Peak	120,000 acres	183-8
Mount Moriah	98,000 acres	183-9
South Schell	120,000 acres	183-10
Ruby Mountains	150,000 acres	183-11

Thankyou very much.

Sincerely,
Sarah Woodin

183-7	Please refer to response number 14-11.
183-8	Please refer to response number 8-7.
183-9	Please refer to response number 8-2.
183-10	Please refer to response number 61-7.
183-11	Please refer to response number 8-4.

OCT 2 1985

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STATE OF NEVADA

RICHARD H. BRYAN
Governor

LINDA A. RYAN
Director

STATE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710
(702) 885-4420

September 30, 1985

Mr. B.J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Re: Clearinghouse Comments on the Humboldt National Forest DEIS and Proposed Forest Plan

Dear Mr. Graves:

The Nevada State Clearinghouse has completed its review of the above referenced DEIS/Plan. Attached are comments from the Nevada Departments of Agriculture, Minerals, Transportation and Conservation and Natural Resources and the Commission on Tourism. We also acknowledge the comments forwared to you by the Department of Wildlife and by Governor Richard Bryan.

This letter certifies that you have met the requirements under Nevada's Intergovernmental Review Process in accordance with Executive Order 12372. Please be advised that we would like to review the Final EIS/Plan when it is completed.

At this time, we would also like to express our appreciation for the briefing you provided for State agencies on the DEIS.

Sincerely,

John B Walker

John B. Walker, Coordinator
State Clearinghouse, OCS/SPOC

JBW/ll
cc: Tim Hay, Governor's Office
Commenting Agencies
Enclosures

184 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

OCT 2 1985

184

NEVADA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE [illegible]

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
1100 EAST WILLIAM, SUITE 117
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89710
885-4420

SEP 10 1985

TO:

Governor's Office
— Attorney General
— Administration
X Agriculture
— Commerce
— Community Services
— State Job Training Office
— Economic Development
— Education
— Employment Security Department
X Dept. of Minerals
— Equal Rights Commission
— Human Resources
— Indian Commission

Labor Commission
X Legislative Counsel Bureau
— Library
— Prisons
— Public Service Commission
— Taxation
X Transportation
X UNR-Bureau of Mines
X UNR-Dept. of Range, Wildlife, and Forestry
X X Wildlife
— Press Room-Capitol Building
— Nuclear Waste Project Office
— SOICC
X State Communications Board

Conservation and Natural Resources
X State Lands
— Conservation Districts
X Environmental Protection
X Forestry
X Hist. Preservation & Archeology
X X State Parks
— Water Planning
X Water Resources
— __________
— __________
— __________

FROM: John B. Walker, Coordinator

SAI NO # 85300089

PROJECT: DEIS/Forest Plan--Humboldt National Forest

Attached for review and comment is a copy of the aforementioned project. Please evaluate it with respect to:

1) the program's effect on your plans and programs;
2) the importance of its contribution to State and/or areawide goals and objectives;
3) its accord with any applicable law, order or regulation with which you are familiar and/or
4) additional considerations.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS NO LATER THAN 9/10/85. Type your comments if applicable, check the appropriate box below and return the form to this office. PLEASE DO SO EVEN IF YOU HAVE NO COMMENT on this particular project so that we may complete our processing. If you are unable to comment by the prescribed date, please notify this office. Reviewers may substitute this form with agency letterhead. If letterhead is used, please cite the SAI number listed above in your comment.

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY REVIEWING AGENCY:

— No comment on this project
— Proposal supported as written
— Additional information (see below)
— Conference desired (see below)
— Conditional support (outlined below)
— Disapproval of funding (must specify reason below)

Comments: (use additional sheets if necessary)

See attached draft comments on proposed project.

Peter B. Dondero
Agriculturist
Title
738-8076
Phone
09/09/85
Date

184 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

OCT 2 1985

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COMMENTS ON HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST
DEIS/FOREST PLAN

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Humboldt National Forest Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Forest Plan.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture comments and recommendations are as follows:

COMMENTS			RESPONSES
Water The Nevada Department of Agriculture is opposed to the Humboldt National Forest or any federal agency filing for water rights in the State of Nevada, in the name of the United States.	184-1	184-1	Please refer to response number 91-5.
Wilderness The Nevada Department of Agriculture is opposed to Wilderness Area designations and the elimination of motorized access to allotments within Proposed Wilderness Areas. Recommend implementation of Alternative "1" with respect to Wilderness.	184-2	184-2	Please refer to response number 4-2.
Range Recommend implementation of Allotment Management Plans on all grazing allotments in order to improve management, provide for better distribution of livestock, protect riparian areas, and provide for maximum utilization of available forage. Monitoring should be an ongoing effort to determine the condition of Range and AUM's should be adjusted regularly according to the carrying capacity of the range. Permittees on over-obligated allotments, not yet under an AMP and faced with AUM reductions, should have priority in obtaining under-utilized or vacant allotments.	184-3	184-3	We agree with your comments which are reflected in our range management policy.
Recreation A rancher's livelihood depends upon grazing. Conflicts between range livestock grazing and recreational uses should be addressed giving livestock grazing priority over recreational uses. Recreational sites should be situated where they will have a minimal impact on livestock interests. Less emphasis should be placed on the impact livestock grazing has on recreation and more emphasis placed on the impact recreation has on livestock grazing.	184-4	184-4	We disagree that all conflicts should be resolved in favor of livestock grazing at the expense of recreational uses. The Forest Service is directed by law to manage for multiple use. In specific cases more or less consideration will be given to livestock grazing or recreation as the situation demands but overall resource uses will be balanced out.

OCT 8 1985 184

Draft Comments on Humboldt National Forest
DEIS/Forest Plan
Page 2

COMMENTS			RESPONSES
Wildlife Wildlife should be maintained and protected without adversely affecting livestock interests.	184-5	184-5	We disagree that wildlife needs should always be resovled without adversely affecting lviestock interests. In fact in the case of threatened or endangered species, management priority will be placed on the special habitat needs of these species. As stated in the previous response our mandate for the management of this National Forest is multiple use.
Wild Horses The Mt. Moriah and Murphy Wash Wild Horse Territories should be eliminated and the three remaining populations should be held to management plan stocking levels or present size, whichever is less.	184-6	184-6	The FEIS/Plan provides for the elimination of the Mount Moriah and Murphy Wash Wild Horse Territories. It also requires that we manage the remaining wild horse territories as directed within the territory management plans. We will manage for population levels identified within the territory plans.
Insect Control Coordinate efforts with the Bureau of Land Management and the Nevada Department of Wildlife to reduce the restrictions placed on potential APHIS Grasshopper/Mormon Cricket control programs. Work toward removing the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout from the threatened species list, due to its widespread distribution. Noxious Weed Control Coordinate control efforts on noxious weeds with state and county officials, weed control districts, and private individuals to help eliminate problem infestations.	184-7	184-7	We will continue to evaluate all insect control and noxious weed control projects through the NEPA process. We are cooperating with NDOW, BLM, and USFWS in recovery efforts for the Lahontan cutthroat trout.
Land Exchanges Conduct land exchanges to provide for more efficient management of forest lands and privately owned lands. Proposed public access roads should be designed to avoid adverse effects on livestock grazing operations.	184-8	184-8	We feel the plan gives strong direction towards conducting land exchanges. Concerning public access roads, we will complete an environmental analysis prior to construction of any road and the impacts on livestock grazing will be considered along with the impacts on other resources.

[illegible]
Division of State Lands
State Land Office
State Land Use Planning Agency
(702) 885-4363

184

Address Reply to
Division of State Lands
201 S. Fall Street
Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Division of State Lands

September 9, 1985

SEP 10 1985

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: John Walker, State Clearinghouse
Office of Community Services

FROM: Mike Del Grosso, Land Use Planner

SUBJECT: SAI NV #85300088 DEIS/Forest Plan - Humboldt National Forest

We have reviewed the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Draft Environmental Impact Statement and have found it to be comprehensive and well written. The mangement practices proposed for each area seem to be appropriate and reasonable. We have no specific comments to make on the plan or the management practices; however, we would urge the Forest Service to give particular attention to the comments made from people residing in the areas close to the forest and the users who may be more familiar with each mangement area.

Our comments and proposals for wilderness areas are included in the state consensus position developed for the Governor's consideration. Generally, we support the preferred alternative which proposes 285,810 acres in the Mount Moriah, Wheeler Peak, Ruby Mountains, Grant Range and Jarbidge areas. It appears that the Forest Service has done a commendable job in reducing resource conflicts and developing manageable areas.

JMD:jsd

OCT 2 1985

184

NEVADA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
1100 EAST WILLIAM, SUITE 117
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89710
885-4420

TO:

DIV OF LANDS

25 JUN 85 10:

- ☐ Governor's Office
- ☐ Attorney General
- ☐ Administration
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- ☐ State Job Training Office
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- Labor Commission
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- ☒ Transportation
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- ☒ UNR-Dept. of Range, Wildlife, and Forestry
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- ☒ ☒ State Parks
- ☐ Water Planning
- ☒ Water Resources
- ☐ ______
- ☐ ______
- ☐ ______

FROM: John B. Walker, Coordinator

SAI NY # 85300088

PROJECT: DEIS/Forest Plan--Humboldt National Forest

Attached for review and comment is a copy of the aforementioned project. Please evaluate it with respect to:

1) the program's effect on your plans and programs;
2) the importance of its contribution to State and/or areawide goals and objectives;
3) its accord with any applicable law, order or regulation with which you are familiar and/or
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- ☐ No comment on this project
- ☐ Proposal supported as written
- ☒ Additional information (see below)

- ☐ Conference desired (see below)
- ☐ Conditional support (outlined below)
- ☐ Disapproval of funding (must specify reason below)

Comments: (use additional sheets if necessary)

LAND USE PLANNER 885-4363 9-7-85

184 CONT. COMMENTS

OCT [illegible] 85

184

50th Anniversary
Nevada State Parks

RECEIVED ON
AUG 23 1985
OFFICE OF
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Division
of
State
Parks

John Richardson
Administrator

Room 119
Nye Building
201 South Fall Street
Capitol Complex
Carson City
Nevada
89710

702/885-4370

Richard H. Bryan
Governor

A division of the
Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources

Roland D. Westergard
Director

MEMORANDUM

To: John Walker, State Clearinghouse

From: Steve Weaver, Assistant Administrator

Date: 8/22/85

Re: Humboldt DEIS and Proposed Management Plan, SAI 85300088

The Division of State Parks is pleased to have had the opportunity to review and comment on the Humboldt National Forest DEIS and Proposed Forest Management Plan.

The Division endorses Alternative "K" as the preferred management plan for the Humboldt National Forest. However, there are three specific shortcomings that should be addressed in further detail. These areas of concern include:

1. In the preferred alternative, five (5) areas are being nominated for Research Natural Areas status. But, none of the areas are shown on the location map. Furthermore, no suitable management prescription is listed on the map for Natural Areas. 184-9

2. The second problem also occurs on the Alternative "K" location map. The map identifies 15 "management prescriptions," of which number one (1) is most commonly utilized. However, prescription number one does not correlate with the text narrative for most of these areas regarding multiple resource management guidelines. Rather, prescription number one only refers to range management and minerals. No mention is made or inferred of recreation, wildlife, woodland products, soil erosion control, watershed management, fire protection, special uses, facilities or transportation. 184-10

3. Lastly, the alternatives give no indication of management priorities. If funding is limited, will range and mineral concerns receive all the attention to the detriment of other considerations? Priorities should be defined in the plan as to what management actions will take place at various funding levels. 184-11

RESPONSES

184-9 We agree and the Research Natural Areas will be depicted on the Final Plan map.

184-10 The management prescriptions depicted on the Alternative "K" map have been rewritten reflecting the intent of the FEIS/Plan.

184-11 It is not our intent to manage any one resource at the expense of the other resources. The FEIS/Plan provides direction establishing emphasis levels for resource management. These emphasis levels will provide the framework for budget development and would be used as guides even under declining funding.

OCT 8 1985

184

NEVADA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
1100 EAST WILLIAM, SUITE 117
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89710
885-4420

TO:

☐ Governor's Office
☐ Attorney General
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☐ Education
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☐ Water Planning
☒ Water Resources
☐ ________
☐ ________
☐ ________

FROM: John B. Walker, Coordinator

SAI NO # 85300089

PROJECT: DEIS/Forest Plan--Humboldt National Forest

Attached for review and comment is a copy of the aforementioned project. Please evaluate it with respect to:

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☐ Conditional support (outlined below)
☐ Disapproval of funding (must specify reason below)

Comments: (use additional sheets if necessary)

Reviewer's Signature

Asst. Admin
Title

885-1310
Phone

8/23/85
Date

184 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

OCT 2 1985

RICHARD H. BRYAN
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

ROLAND D. WESTERGARD
State Historic Preservation Officer

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND ARCHEOLOGY
201 S. Fall Street
Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710
(702) 885-5138

184

RECEIVED ON
AUG 0 8 1985
OFFICE OF
COMMUNITY SERVICES

August 6, 1985

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Walker, Office of Community Services

FROM: Alice M. Becker, Staff Archeologist Alice M Becker

SUBJECT: TOIYABE AND HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST PLAN WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS (SAI NV #85300088 and #85300084).

The Division has reviewed the plans and has not found conflicts between proposed wilderness designations and cultural resources. In one instance, designation will have a positive effect on one of Nevada's most significant prehistoric sites, Alta Toquima located in the proposed Mt. Jefferson Wilderness.

Alta Toquima has been studied by Dr. David Hurst Thomas of the American Museum of Natural History who discovered thirty-one large rock structures at the summit of the 11,000 foot plus peak. Preliminary results of his study indicate that prehistoric peoples were inhabiting high altitude village sites during the summer months for at least 700 years, likely longer. Archeologists are certain that Alta Toquima was not just a series of temporary hunting camps occupied by men for a few days. Excavation revealed deposits of midden (accumulation of household refuse) beneath the house floors that take a long time to accumulate. The presence of numerous metates (groundstone artifacts) which are almost exclusively used by women, provides more telling proof that the site was a village complex occupied by families.

Data from the site are still being analyzed. Until such work is completed, we can only speculate the reasons for prehistoric occupation of this harsh environment. The hunting of big horn sheep and the collecting of grass seeds, tubers, or limber pine nuts, or some as yet unknown plant or animal species, may have provided a stable resource that permitted long-term occupation for people who normally moved frequently over the landscape in search of food.

OCT 2 1985

August 6, 1985
MEMORANDUM
John Walker
Re: SAI NV #85300088
and #85300084
Page 2

184

Since Dr. Thomas' initial discovery, another site with perhaps similar adaptations has been discovered in the Great Basin in California. However, Alta Toquima remains the first studied and the highest village site known in North America, truly one of Nevada's (and the nation's) most precious resources. A good portion of the site remains unexcavated, a common practice, for archeologists of the future who have new research questions to answer and better techniques for analyzing data from the site.

Part of Mt. Jefferson, including Alta Toquima, has been designated a Research Natural Area; however, the area was never withdrawn from mineral entry. Although most people, including those working in the mineral industry, recognize the need to protect the Alta Toquima site, unavoidable indirect impacts to the site are likely in the future. An increase of off-road vehicle use or mining exploration roads or paths will open the area to additional people and illegal collecting pressure, already a problem in the State. Until recently, the site has been protected due to its relative inaccessibility; the pristine condition of the site as first viewed by Dr. Thomas is testament to its remoteness. This will not last with the increase in mining activity and population in Smoky Valley.

The designation of the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness will provide some protection to Alta Toquima. The further away vehicles are restricted, the less likely the site will be vandalized since most people would be deterred from carrying equipment to the summit from a long distance to carry on their illicit work; nor would they wish to transport loads of artifacts back down treacherous slopes. At the same time, those who are just interested or curious still will have the opportunity to experience the rigors of this high altitude environment and wonder how earlier people adapted to such conditions.

The Division strongly supports the Forest Service's recommendation to designate the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness Area. We feel that designation is in the best interest of the resource and the State.

If you need further information on the work that has been conducted or on these comments, please call us.

AMB/de

OCT 2 1985

RECEIVED

SEP 04 1985

COMMUNITY SERVICES

84

NEVADA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
1100 EAST WILLIAM, SUITE 117
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89710
885-4420

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FROM: John B. Walker, Coordinator

SAI NO. # 85300084 PROJECT: DEIS and Proposed Forest Plan, Toiyabe

Attached for review and comment is a copy of the aforementioned project. Please evaluate it with respect to:

1) the program's effect on your plans and programs;
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- ☐ Disapproval of funding (must specify reason below)

Comments: (use additional sheets if necessary)

[illegible] 885-1380 9-30-85

OCT . 1985

184

NEVADA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

JUL 0 9 1985

COMMUNITY SERVICES

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
1100 EAST WILLIAM, SUITE 117
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89710
885-4420

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FROM: John B. Walker, Coordinator

SAI NO # 85300084

PROJECT: DEIS and Proposed Forest Plan, Toiyabe

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Comments: (use additional sheets if necessary)

D.O.T. William [illegible] [illegible] 8-28-85

184 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

OCT 2 1985

RECEIVED

SEP 11 1985

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

184

NEVADA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
1100 EAST WILLIAM, SUITE 117
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89710
885-4420

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FROM: John B. Walker, Coordinator

SAI NO # 85300088

PROJECT: DEIS/Forest Plan--Humboldt National Forest

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Comments: (use additional sheets if necessary)

AIR-Gay McCleary: No comment. WASTE-Verne Rosse: No comment.
WATER-Ralph Capurro: The EIS and Forest Plan adequately covers water quality measures. Some additional comments on the following would make the plan more complete: Mining- It should be noted that all mining activities must be reviewed and approved by the Nevada Division of Env. Prot. (DEP). The review will determine if a permit is necessary. BMP's will required. 184-12 Water-When watershed projects improve water quality are proposed, plans and specifications must be reviewed by DEP. These projects will require BMP's as laid out in the Best Mngmt. Practices Manual available from DEP., with regard to the 184-13 monitoring plan of operation, DEP should review this proposed document and be included in the design of any monitoring program with possible coordination of sampling. DEP would be available for assistance in determining "critical watersheds", those proposed 184-14 to be purchased to protect water quality.

Administrator 885-4670 9/13/85

184-12 When operating plans are filed Forest Service personnel coordinate activities with the State as needed.

184-13 Consultation and coordination with the appropriate publics, including state agencies is a requirement of NEPA. Coordination and Consultation occurs as part of the environmental analysis process of all projects including watershed projects.

184-14 Please refer to response number 13 above. We appreciate your cooperation in coordinating sampling, developing monitoring plans, and in determining critical watersheds.

184 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

OCT 2 1985

184

NEVADA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

SEP 19 1985

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
1100 EAST WILLIAM, SUITE 117
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89710
885-4420

TO:

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FROM: John B. Walker, Coordinator

SAI NO # 85300088 PROJECT: DEIS/Forest Plan--Humboldt National Forest

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Comments: (use additional sheets if necessary)

Doug Driesner — Reviewer's Signature
Resource Engineer — Title
(702) 885-5050 — Phone
8-30-85 — Date

184 CONT. COMMENTS

OCT 2 1985

184

RICHARD H. BRYAN
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

RICHARD L. REYNHIM
Director

DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS
400 W. King Street, Suite 106
Carson City, Nevada 89710
(702) 885-5050

September 18, 1985

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Walker, Clearinghouse Coordinator

FROM: Doug Driesner DD

SUBJECT: DEIS/Forest Plan -- Humboldt National Forest
SAI NV #85300088

The Department of Minerals has reviewed the Humboldt National Forest Plan with interest. We are pleased that mineral related issues and concerns have been considered. We support the current Forest Service policy of integrating the development of mineral resources with the use and conservation of other forest resources. We note that in the Toiyabe National Forest Plan, Appendix F, an attempt has been made to quantify the resource and wilderness potential. We question why this was not done in the Humboldt Forest Plan. 184-12a

The Forest Service recognizes the importance of mineral resources and has tabulated the active mines, mining claims and major exploration activity that currently exist. Predictions regarding future mineral and energy related activities are also made in the Forest Plan. The Department of Minerals is in agreement with the Forest Service's conclusions that "demand is likely to exceed the supply of minerals in the future" and "demand for energy resources is likely to continue and possibly increase."

The Department of Minerals' position regarding the preferred alternative's wilderness proposals follows:

Grant Range The Grant Range is of high mineral potential. There are currently active mining claims in this area and it is of major interest for oil exploration, as it is adjacent to both Railroad Valley and White River Valley. The eastern flank in particular has been evaluated by the USGS as having high potential for petroleum exploration and development. The Department of Minerals is opposed to wilderness designation. 184-13a

Jarbidge Additions These areas are of high mineral potential; however, only moderate interest has been shown by the Nevada minerals industry, due to its proximity to the existing wilderness. Known occurences of gold and high-grade barite occur on the east and west flanks of the existing wilderness and occur in the additions proposed by the Forest Service. These areas also contain numerous active mining claims. Although known to be of high mineral potential, its proximity to existing wilderness makes it doubtful that the potential will ever be developed; therefore, the Department of Minerals is unopposed to the proposed Forest Service recommendation.

RESPONSES

184-12A Please refer to response number 172-1.

184-13A The Southern Grant Range has the characteistics of a metamorphic core complex such as the Ruby Mountains and the Snake Range. Based on this structural data for the Grant Range and the petroleum potential rating from circular 902-H, only the eastern flank of the Grant Range is considered to have moderate petroleum potential since the flank is relatively undisturbed.

The core of the range has been highly metamorphosed and faulted to such an extent that it would be unlikely to produce petroleum or provide structural traps.

John Walker
September 18, 1985
Page 2

184

OCT 2 1985

Mt Moriah Although mineral potential is relatively unknown, anomalous occurences of silver, gold, lead, zinc, copper and tungsten indicate that the area could be highly mineralized. A number of active claims exist in and around the study area. The Department of Minerals takes a neutral position concerning this proposal.

184-14a Ruby Mountains This area is generally of low mineral potential; however, there is a mineralized zone which crosses the center portion. Appendix C of the Forest Plan says no mining claims are known to exist; however, our records show that claims for both base and precious metals do exist in the central portion of the Ruby Mountains area. The Department of Minerals opposes the current Forest Service proposal because of this mineralized zone. We would reconsider our position if appropriate boundary adjustments were made.

184-14A The recommended wilderness boundary excludes most of the mineralized area in the central portion of the area. With overall consideration of the wilderness potential we do not feel it's that further changes to the boundary of the area is warranted.

184-15 Wheeler Peak The Forest Service Plan states that gold, tungsten, antimony, lead and silver have been mined in the past. The plan does not mention the beryllium and other rare earth deposits, which are not currently economical to mine, but do exist none the less. Wheeler Peak has high mineral potential. There are currently active mining claims in and around the area. The Department of Minerals is, therefore, opposed to wilderness designation.

184-15 Areas of high and moderate mineral potential within the Bristlecone Recommended Wilderness Area have been excluded from the final wilderness recommendation through boundary modifications.

184-16 There is a potential problem regarding the number of acres proposed for wilderness designation. Using Forest Service maps, the Department of Minerals has checked the acreages with a manual planimeter. Some major differences in acreage were found to exist as tabulated below.

Area	Acreage computed by Forest Service	Acreage computed by NV Dept of Minerals	Difference
Grant Range	53,383	43,131	10,252
Jarbidge Additions	23,440	17,535	5,905
Mt Moriah	81,743	75,537	6,206
Ruby Mountains	67,093	67,175	82
Wheelr Peak	60,151	45,401	14,750

Of these areas, only the Ruby Mountains are in close agreemtn. The Department of Minerals recommends that the acreages for these areas be checked either with a digital planimeter or by a third party.

The Department of Minerals appreciates the opportunity to provide input for the DEIS/Forest Plan for the Humboldt National Forest. If there are any questions, please contact this office.

184-16 Acreage figures were recalculated and corrected where necessary.

OCT 2 1985

184

NEVADA
COMMISSION ON TOURISM

RICHARD H. BRYAN
Governor

LT. GOV. ROBERT A. CASHELL
Chairman

Commissioners:
Don L. Rilhon, Jr.
Barrie Brunel
Jean Ford
James D. Santini
William C. Thornton
Claudine Williams
Thomas J. Milligan
Frank C. Sain

STEPHEN R. RICHER
Executive Director

September 19, 1985

SEP 23 1985

Mr. John Walker
Office of Community Services
Capitol Complex
Carson City, NV 89710

Dear Mr. Walker:

The Commission on Tourism wishes to comment on the Forest Plan for both the Toiyabe and the Humboldt.

The Commission basically supports the Toiyabe Preferred Alternative Plan because it increases recreation opportunities through campground and trail development and dispersed recreation through designation of some wilderness areas (pending Congressional approval).

The Commission does not support the Preferred Alternative of the Humboldt Forest in terms of stagnant recreation development. Our recent research indicates that tourists are increasingly asking for RV and camping information - - about 64% of our correspondents - - which caused us to develop a camping brochure (enclosed). This brochure lists Humboldt campgrounds. For the term of this plan, we feel Alternative A should be the preferred alternative if tourism development is to continue. 184-17

We would like to see current trails maintained with no abandonment. We would like to see current campgrounds maintained, if not improved. Just bringing them up to standard does not help Nevada compete with other state having forests which are well funded, maintained and improved. We suspect that the forest might realise increased useage through increased publicity. 184-18

We support some wilderness designations and the opportunity for dispersed recreation, but the Commission made no specific recommendation.

Just for the record, the maps provided by the Humboldt National Forest offices made it difficult to determine where trails ran or where a proposed ski area might be. This, we hope, will be developed. 184-19

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Susan Lynn
Susan Lynn
Technical & Marketing Assistance

184-17 Please refer to response number 14-13.

184-18 The Forest Plan provides for a trail system necessary for the management of the Forest. Management emphasis in the final plan increased for dispersed recreation which will bring about an increased management emphasis for the trail system.

184-19 Maps are available at the Ranger District Offices, as well as, the Forest Supervisor's Office depicting the present trail system. These maps are available to the public and the information was not duplicated on the Forest Plan Map because the detail would not be visible.

Potential ski area developments are discussed within Chapter IV of the FEIS. It was stated that none of the areas evaluated were considered adequate for development.

184

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1263 South Stewart Street
Carson City, Nevada 89712

TRANSPORTATION BOARD
RICHARD H. BRYAN, Governor, Chairman
BRIAN McKAY, Attorney General
DARREL R. DAINES, State Controller

A. E. STONE, Director

July 2, 1985

In Reply Refer to

PSD 7.19

John Walker, Coordinator
State Clearinghouse Program
Office of Community Services
1100 East William Street; Suite 117
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear John:

The Nevada Department of Transportation has reviewed the environmental assessment for SAI NV #85300088. DEIS/Forest Plan - Humboldt National Forest.

Based on the information submitted, the proposed project is, as of this date, found not to be in conflict with the Department's plans or projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the project.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Hamlin
Chief, Planning Division

REH:JRW:bf

OCT 2 1985

185

Soroptimist
INTERNATIONAL OF GREATER LAS VEGAS

30 September 1985

B.J. GRAVES
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

RE: Humboldt National Forest Plan

Dear Mr. Graves:

Soroptimist International is a service organization of professional and executive women who give service in their community. One of our program areas is Environment. As a charter member of 'Friends of Nevada Wilderness' Coalition, we are very interested in the Humboldt National Forest Plan. We are pleased and certainly support your proposed standards and guidelines for timber, range, riparian areas and wildlife. However, we want to see the roadless areas as shown below included as wilderness.

Santa Rosa: 80,000. The Little Humboldt and Quinn Rivers find their headwaters here. Golden eagles and hawks nest nearby in the cliffs and in the aspens and one can see them riding the thermal air currents. 185-1

Jarbridge Additions: 54,000. These additional acres add scenic mountain slopes and wild overgrown drainages of Fox, pine, Camp and Cottonwood creeks to Nevada's only designated wilderness. 185-2

New Humboldt: 27,000. Located east of Elko, trout fishing abounds in the lakes and this area includes the 11,306-foot hole-in-the-Mountain. 185-3

Ruby Mountains: 143,000. This area has alpine peaks with lakes and meadows; a true jewel for Nevada. 185-4

Schell Peaks: 120,000. This range has streams with beaver and trout, as well as 11,883-foot Schell Peak, and is northeast of Ely, Nevada. 185-5

Mount Moriah: 98,000. This area includes gorges, mountain streams and 12,050-foot Mount Moriah and is east of Ely, Nevada. 185-6

185-1 Please refer to response number 8-12.

185-2 Please refer to response number 8-5.

185-3 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

185-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

185-5 Please refer to response number 61-7.

185-6 Please refer to response number 8-2.

185

OCT 2 1985

Soroptimist
INTERNATIONAL OF GREATER LAS VEGAS

B.J. Graves - Page 2

South Snake Range: 120,000. This range also includes Mt. Wheeler and Highland. Wheeler Peak soars 13,013 feet and has bristlecone pines up to 4,000 years old. The location is southeast of Ely. 185-7

Currant Mountain: 49,000. Bristlecone pines and bighorn sheep can be found on this acreage. Location is southeast of Ely. 185-8

Grant Range: 60,000. Wildflowers, bristlecone pine and bighorn sheep are to be found on this acreage. Located southeast of Ely. 185-9

Quinn Canyon: 95,000. This range is located to the south of Grant Range and a major attraction is the volcanic rock in the area. 185-10

Elk Mountain: 12,600. Located in the northeast part of Nevada near Elko, it is needed to compliment the others cited here. 185-11

We feel that "wilderness" designation is necessary to protect the environment including water and air quality, wildlife habitat, protection and preservation of unique plant and animal ecosystems and genetic strains as well as providing recreational opportunities.

The impact on us as women includes the protection of these areas for our future, our children and society as a whole. The impact on us as Nevadans includes those tourist-related activities which provide us with our economic base.

Thank you for your consideration of our needs as citizens as Nevada.

Sincerely,

Trude McMahan Morris
President

THM:slb

P.O. Box 66 Las Vegas, Nevada 89125

185-7	Please refer to response number 8-1.
185-8	Please refer to response number 8-3.
185-9	Please refer to response number 14-11.
185-10	Please refer to response number 8-7.
185-11	Please refer to response number 8-11.

186

OCT 2 1985

September 29 1985

Mr. B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, N.V. 89801

Dear Mr. Graves

I am very concerned about our wilderness areas. I would like to speak out for wilderness and sound management practices for the Humboldt and Toiyabe National Forests for which I strongly support. I strongly support wilderness protection for the specific acreages described. Construction or reconstruction of road in or near wildless areas must be opposed. 186-1

1. Jarbidge Additions
This area would add mountain slopes and the drainages of Jack, Pine and Cottonwood Creeks to Nevada's only presently designated Wilderness. I urge the Forest Service to increase its recommendation to include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek and the country west of St. Mary's River for a total of some 54,000 acres. 186-2

2. Elk Mountain
This forested area in the northeast corner of the state is a sportsman's paradise and must have wilderness protection. I urge the Forest Service to recommend 13,500 acres 186-3

186-1 Please refer to response number 14-14.

186-2 Please refer to response number 8-5.

186-3 Please refer to response number 8-11.

3. Santa Rosa
The Santa Rosa Mountains contain the headwaters of both the Quinn and Little Humboldt Rivers and are an outstanding natural feature of northwest Nevada. There is a large raptor population and excellent trout fishing.
I encourage the Forest Service to recommend some 80,000 acres of this remote country. 186-4

4. Ruby Mountains
The glacier-carved Rubies are classic alpine wilderness and a hiker's dream with lakes, meadows and peaks.
The Forest Service's proposal should be enlarged to include the northern portion of the range for a total of 150,000 acres. 186-5

5. East Humboldt
This beautiful area in the northeast Ruby Mountains has dozens of lakes and the 11 300 foot Hole-in-the-Mountain Peak. Private land in Acker Basin should be acquired by direct purchase and 30,000 acres recommended for wilderness protection. 186-6

6. Pearl Peak
The remote Pearl Peak area, south of Harrison Pass in the Ruby Mountains contains stands of Bristlecone Pine and extensive wildlife. The boundary should be extended to the southeast for a total of 23,000 acres. 186-7

186-4 Please refer to response number 8-12.

186-5 Please refer to response number 8-4.

186-6 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

186-7 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

186 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

186

1985

COMMENTS			RESPONSES
7. South Schell The long Schell Creek Range extends for many miles above timberline, reaching its highest point at 11 800 foot Schell Peak. 120,000 acres of this magnificent wilderness and recreational resource, should be supported for wilderness designation	186-8	186-8	Please refer to response number 61-7.
8. Mount Moriah This superb wild area includes a 12,000 peak; sheer-walled gorges, and excellent trout streams. The Forest Service should expand its proposal to include the southeast portion of the roadless area for a total of 98,000 acres.	186-9	186-9	Please refer to response number 8-2.
9. Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone) The jewel of the South Snake Range 13,000 foot Wheeler Peak is the second highest mountain in Nevada and unique in the state because of a small glacier on its north face. It has extensive Bristlecone Pine forests as well as many peaks about 11 500 feet. The Forest Service has failed to include the Highland Ridge of this magnificent wilderness. I urge to designate 40,000 acres in its proposal, including the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake	186-10	186-10	Please refer to response number 8-1.
10. Currant Mountain (Duckwater) This high remote limestone wilderness in the southern part of the White Pine Range contains Bristlecone, bighorn sheep, and mule deer. I urge that 49,000 acres be given wilderness protection.	186-11	186-11	Please refer to response number 8-3.

11 Grant Range
This huge limestone range culminates with
11,300 foot Troy Peak and contains over
200 species of wildflowers, a dozen tree
species and desert bighorn
The boundaries should be expanded to
include 60,000 acres and thereby provide
greater protection for the sheep population.

186-12 186-12 Please refer to response number 18-11.

12. Quinn Canyon Range
This scenic extension of the high country
of the Grant Range was recommended for
wilderness by the Forest Service in
RARE II and has been protected since 1973.
I urge that 95,000 acres be designated

186-13 186-13 Please refer to response number 8-7.

We must save these National Forests,
so that future generations can see
their most magnificent and spectacular
beauty.

Sincerely yours
Mrs. Linda Perry
214 Darwin Way
Henderson Nevada
89015

OCT 2 1985

187

115 Elizabeth Way
Grass Valley, CA 95949
Sept. 28, 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Having spent most of my live in Nevada, I realize that many in Nevada do not view wilderness as appropriate "management" of the lands entrusted to your care. However, these lands belong to more than just Nevadans. Having spent many a pleasant time in the de facto wilderness areas in Humboldt NF, I strongly urge you to recommend formal wilderness designation of as many of

187-1

187-1 Please refer to response number 4-2.

children and my grandchildren might enjoy the same experiences I have had opportunity to... enjoying the essence of Nevada, clean air and open space.

Areas I'm personally acquainted with within your Forest are:

The Grant Range
Wheeler Peak
Santa Rosa Mtns
Mt Moriah
Quinn Canyon Range

Thank you for your consideration.

J. Steven Borrow

1985

188

CE
CHILTON ENGINEERING, Chartered

September 30, 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

In the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management plan DEIS on pages III-8, 3rd paragraph and IV-3, 4th paragraph, the Forest Service stated that although the Humboldt Forest has no developed downhill ski areas, none of the alternatives include any potential ski areas. The potential sites are considered to be too far from population centers or commercial transportation and to add only marginally to current recreation activity.

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan compiled by the Nevada Division of State Parks in 1982 indicates that in 1985 Elko County will have a demand for 16 miles of cross-country trails and 7 acres of downhill skiing. At present, there are no developed cross-country or downhill ski areas within Elko County. Over the last two decades the Elko County Recreation Board has sought to establish skiing facilities within the County to serve local residents and as a part of economic development. At one time a rope-tow was purchased for Lamoille Canyon, but a suitable site was never found. The heliski and snowcat skiing operation in the Ruby's, in some measure, meets part of this demand, although the high price prevents many local residents from participating.

Nevertheless, in the preferred alternative, (Proposed Forest Plan, page IV-151) the heliskiing operation is reduced. Just as a ranching operation with a private land base of operations depends on its forest service leases for its economic viability, skiing operaitons in this checkerboard area depend upon their forest service permits. A partnership exists between the private sector and the federal government. Fostering this partnership would be in keeping with management goal #3 on page IV-2. Furthermore, restricting dispersed recreation activity in the checkerboard areas may be infeasible. 188-1

Another major consideration which is given little in-depth analysis in the DEIS is the economic importance which private developed recreation can have in Elko County. While the income to the Forest Service may be small, the economic benefits to the county from the direct expenditures on recreation and the secondary expenditures in the local economy could be quite significant. 188-2

Finally, alternatives emphasize "resource development" activities such as alternatives C and I focus on range, timber, and minerals development. These resources are tied to the land where they are located. Similarly private recreation development such as skiing is tied to the land and should also be 188-3

188-1 Please refer to response numbers 118-1 and 118-3.

188-2 Development of private developed recreation was considered in th Forest planning process. Development of recreation is encourage in the private sector and receives emphasis as part of Goal #3 fo the Humboldt National Forest. The Forest Service can onl encourage recreation development in the private sector. It has n control over development on private lands and therefore privat recreation receives no special directon for development in th Plan.

188-3 Your concerns dealing with private recreation development i Alternatives C and I again relate to establishing a value o resources indirectly impacting management on the National Forest The analysis procedures measured various resource inputs ar projected outputs relating specifically to recognized values fro National Forest System Lands.

188 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

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page 2
B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
September 30, 1985

considered for emphasized development in the "resource development" alternatives.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. We hope our comments will provide useful input to the planning process.

Sincerely,
Chilton Engineering, Chartered

Pam Cosby

Pamela Gene Cosby, P.E.
Civil Engineer/Planner

Marvin E. Davis, P.E.
Principal Civil Engineer

MED:PGC:jt

CC Grant Gerber

189 COMMENTS

OCT 2 1985

189

720 Brookfield Drive
Reno, Nevada 89503
September 30, 1985

B. J. Graves, Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Bob:

Below are my personal comments on the Humboldt National Forest Management Plan and Draft EIS.

I am extremely concerned about the future of the Humboldt and the direction its management will take within the next few years. I am somewhat dismayed to find not only what I consider an inadequate wilderness recommendation in the preferred alternative but also a feeling that the Humboldt is not regarded as an important forest. Actually, it has superb wilderness, extensive wildlife, and extremely important watershed areas. Those values must be preserved. 189-1 Unfortunately, both riparian areas and watershed have deteriorated, mostly because of overgrazing, and the Forest Service seems unwilling to take the steps necessary to stop this deterioration. 189-2 All riparian areas should be managed so they are in at least good condition within five years. 189-3 If this means fencing to keep out cattle, that should be done. 189-4 Both game and non-game wildlife should be treated as an extremely important resource that has first consideration in the allocation of forage and habitat. 189-5 All watersheds should be restored to excellent condition as soon as possible, regardless of the "cost." To accomplish this goal, some grazing may have to be cut and some ORV closures instituted, particularly during the spring. Grazing can certainly exist on the Humboldt, but not at the expense of other values. Primitive recreation should be emphasized. 189-6 The Forest needs more, not less, trails, and these trails must be carefully laid out and maintained. 189-7 Volunteers could be useful in this program. The trailheads should be adequately signed, particularly in areas where maps are not available. The campground system should be expanded to take care of the expanding recreational population, particularly in Lamoille Canyon and in the South Snake. 189-8 Perhaps a volunteer "campground host" program can be instituted, similar to what is being done in other forests. Certainly the Forest needs much better press coverage in the Reno and Las Vegas papers, since it a national forest and not just an Elko and/or Ely forest. 189-9

Because of my intimate acquaintance with many of the roadless areas over a span of thirty years, I recommend that the preferred alternative be changed to include the following areas and that the ones recommended in the Plan have expanded acreages. My specific

RESPONSES

189-1 Please refer to response number 14-1.

189-2 Please refer to response number 4-1.

189-3 Your concerns about riparian areas and watersheds are addressed in the Forest-wide standards and guidelines under both the range and the soil and water management practices headings. Some of the standards and guidelines in the draft plan have been revised to reflect our intent to provide good riparian management that will improve all riparian areas which are in less than satisfactory ecological condition. There are also standards and guidelines addressing measures to be taken to correct damage to watersheds caused by ORV use.

189-4 Please refer to response number 169-5.

189-5 The Forest Service agrees that both game and non-game wildlife species are an extremely important resources. As resource managers, the Forest Service does not specifically allocate forage to wildlife. The Forest Service manages the forage resource to maintain or enhance the vegetation resource for use by both wildlife and livestock.

Studies are conducted annually on grazing allotments to determine proper stocking levels of livestock. Adjustments are made in livestock numbers when needed to allow improvement in range condition. Improvement in range condition benefits wildlife as well livestock.

189-6 Your desire for increased primitive recreation opportunities on the Forest will be realized in the Forest Plan. The preferred alternative projects a 1.0% increase in primitive recreation use during the first 10 year cycle. The alternative proposes 268,300 acres of additional wilderness which will significantly increase the opportunity for primitive recreation.

189-7 The Final Forest Plan has been modified to place an increased emphasis on trails.

189-8 We have in the past and plan in the future to use volunteers for campground and trail upkeep and maintenance. It should be pointed out that volunteer programs are not cost free. Under current funding levels, evel volunteer work in some cases, is not affordable.

189-9 Better media coverage is also addressed in the goals and objectives. (See Goal # 54).

189 CONT. COMMENTS

OCT 2 1985

189

B. J. Graves
9/30/85. Page 2.

recommendations are as follows:

(1) Wheeler Peak - Include part of the Highland Ridge area for a total of 120,000 acres. 189-10

(2) Mount Moriah - Expand the acreage for a total of 98,000 acres. 189-11

(3) Ruby Mountains - Enlarge the acreage to include the northern portion for a total of 150,000 acres. 189-12

(4) Jarbidge Additions - Restore the original roadless area boundaries and recommend a total of 54,000 acres. 189-13

(5) Grant Range - Expand the wilderness recommendation to include 60,000 acres. 189-14

(6) Quinn Canyon - Return to the RARE II recommendation and include 95,000 acres in the wilderness recommendation. 189-15

(7) Duckwater (Currant Mountain) - Add this superb area to the recommendations for a total of 49,000 acres. 189-16

(8) South Schell- Add this recreationist's paradise to the recommendations for a total of 120,000 acres. 189-17

(9) East Humboldt - Acquire the remainder of the private land and add 50,000 acres of this northern extension of the Ruby Mountains to the wilderness recommendation. 189-18

(10) Santa Rosa - The headwaters of the Quinn and Little Humboldt Rivers need the protection of wilderness status. Recommend 80,000 acres of this remote area. 189-19

(11) Pearl Peak - 23,000 acres of this remote southern extension of the Ruby Mountains should be recommended for wilderness. 189-20

(12) Elk Mountain - The Forest Service should recommend 12,500 acres of this superb wildlife country for wilderness. 189-21

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this most important issue. Please send me a copy of your final plan and EIS. I hope it will include some of the recommended changes.

Sincerely,

Marge

Marjorie Sill

RESPONSES

189-10 Please refer to response number 8-1.

189-11 Please refer to response number 8-2.

189-12 Please refer to response number 8-4.

189-13 Please refer to response number 8-5.

189-14 Please refer to response number 14-11.

189-15 Please refer to response number 8-7.

189-16 Please refer to response number 8-3.

189-17 Please refer to response number 61-7.

189-18 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

189-19 Please refer to response number 8-12.

189-20 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

189-21 Please refer to response number 8-11.

190 COMMENTS

OCT 2 1985

190

940 Grandview
Reno, Nevada 89503
September 30, 1985

R. J. Graves, Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

I am a native Nevadan, born in Lincoln County, and an ardent fisherman and hiker. Since I was a child, I have spent many vacations in the various regions of the Humboldt National Forest, particularly the Wheeler Peak area. I have also fished throughout the northern and eastern part of the state.

Because of their magnificent scenery, wildlife values, and opportunities for primitive recreation, the following roadless areas should be included in the Humboldt Management Plan preferred alternative for wilderness:

190-1 thru 190-12

(1)	Jarbidge Additions	54,000 acres
(2)	Elk Mountain	12,500 acres
(3)	Santa Rosa	80,000 acres
(4)	Ruby Mountains	150,000 acres
(5)	East Humboldt	30,000 acres
(6)	Pearl Peak	23,000 acres
(7)	South Schell	120,000 acres
(8)	Mount Moriah	98,000 acres
(9)	Wheeler Peak	120,000 acres
(10)	Currant Mountain	49,000 acres
(11)	Grant Range	60,000 acres
(12)	Quinn Canyon Range	95,000 acres

190-13

I also ask that all riparian areas on the Forest be restored to at least good condition so that they can support an adequate fish population.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important document.

Sincerely,

James Hulse

James Hulse

RESPONSES

190-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

190-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

190-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

190-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

190-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

190-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

190-6 Please refer to response number 193-109.

190-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

190-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

190-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

190-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

190-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

190-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

190-13 Please refer to response number 86-13.

OCT 2 1985

191

R. E. Strite
10530 Castine Ave.
Cupertino, CA 95014
28 Sep 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humbolt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Sir,

It has come to my attention that the management plans for the Humbolt Forest are being finalized, and that the following areas are not now included for protection. I urge that they be included.

1. Jarbidge Additions. Increase the wilderness area to include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and the country west of St. Mary's River for a total of some 54,000 acres. 191-1
2. Elk Mountain. 12,500 acres is recommended for wilderness. 191-2
3. Santa Rosa. 80,000 acres should be recommended for wilderness. 191-3
4. Ruby Mountains. The Forest Service proposal should include the northern part of the range for an additional 150,000 acres. 191-4
5. East Humbolt. Private land in the Acker Basin should be acquired by direct purchase and 30,000 acres recommended for wilderness protection. 191-5
6. Pearl Peak. The boundary should be extended to the southeast for a total of 23,000 acres. 191-6
7. South Schell. 120,000 acres should be recommended for wilderness designation. 191-7
8. Mount Moriah. The proposed area should be expanded to include the southeast portion of the roadless area for a total of 90,000 acres. 191-8
9. Wheeler Peak. Highland Ridge and the old road from the upper campground to Johnson Lake should be included for an addition of 120,000 acres to the proposed wilderness area. 191-9
10. Currant Mountain. 49,000 acres should be included as wilderness area. 191-10
11. Grant Range. The wilderness area should include 60,000 acres. 191-11
12. Quinn Canyon Range. 95,000 acres should be designated as wilderness. 191-12

This request to expand the proposed wilderness areas is based on the need to protect these areas from motorized encroachment that jeopardizes their scenic, wildlife, recreational, and natural

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191-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

191-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

191-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

191-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

191-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

191-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

191-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

191-8 Please refer to response number 8-2.

191-9 Please refer to response number 8-1.

191-10 Please refer to response number 8-3.

191-11 Please refer to response number 14-11.

191-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

191 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

191

[illegible] 2 [illegible]

qualities.

Sincerely –

Robt Stitt

192 **COMMENTS** **RESPONSES**

192

725 N. Isabel #8
Glendale CA 91206
Sept. 27, 1985

OCT 2 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Sir:

Although time has not permitted me to review the entire forest plan, I did have time to look at the sections on wilderness and grazing and recreation, and have the following comments:

1. Wilderness -

For the past several years I have been showing my slide program to the recreation community/environmental activist groups in Southern California. The feature of the program is defacto wilderness in Nevada. The audiences are always amazed and excited about what they've seen. They won't all be able to get the word, so I'd like to speak for the 700 people who've supported wilderness for the Santa Rosas in

192-1 192-1 Please refer to response number 18-1.

192-2 192-2 Please refer to response number 8-12.

192 CONT. COMMENTS

192

OCT 2 1985

Northern Nevada, expansions of the Jarbidge, with its views of the Snake River Canyon + the "moving hot spot." 192-3

They all expect maximum designation for the Ruby Mts which look like their more familiar Sierra Nevadas; and all 192-4

the areas around Wheeler Peak – including 192-5

Mt. Moriah, South Schell. 192-6 192-7

The most surprising areas – Grant and 192-8

Quinn, with their sheer slopes and superb views – certainly should be recommended for wilderness. 192-9

In general, protection of Bristlecone Pine was given short shrift. 192-10

2. Grazing impacts and controls and mitigation of overgrazing is totally or inadequate. 192-11 Many of the areas are still getting overgrazed, and cattle are still breaking down streams banks and spoiling trout streams. 192-12 There are several ways to address problems with coyotes and sheep and the forest seems 192-13 not too imaginative – could suggest something ~~here~~ which would protect raptors and other wildlife

RESPONSES

192-3 Please refer to response number 8-5.

192-4 Please refer to response number 8-4.

192-5 Please refer to response number 8-1.

192-6 Please refer to response number 8-2.

192-7 Please refer to response number 61-7.

192-8 Please refer to response number 14-11.

192-9 Please refer to response number 8-7.

192-10 Please refer to response number 14-15.

192-11 Livestock use is to be managed to maintain proper use of th forage resource. Livestock use in overgrazed areas will be mang to correct the problem. This is stated repeatedly in the goals, objectives, management direction, and standards and guidelines o the Forest Plan.

192-12 Please refer to response number 86-13.

192-13 Please refer to the section discussing predator control under response number 193-62.

192

3. Judging by my experience in showing slides of Nevada forest areas, the forests have an enormous recreation potential from southern California visitors — especially by those who, after driving so far, would wish to backpack for several days, or stay in camps and do several days of day hikes. Roads are not necessary for these activities — the visitors are expecting isolation, and perhaps trails, but thats all! — there's no need for extending roads. Again the attraction is the wildlife, the bristlecones, and the other flora.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Judith A. Anderson

192-14 192-14 Major construction of new roads is not planned for the Humbold National Forest. Mining companies may construct new roads durin exploration for minerals; however, these roads are generall reclaimed after they have served their purpose. Very few ne Forest System Roads are anticipated in the future, as the Humbold National Forest is not a timber producing forest requiring a extensive road system for logging.

OCT 7 1985

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SIERRA CLUB
Toiyabe Chapter – Nevada and Eastern California

October 6, 1985

B. J. Graves, Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mt. City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

Because of an oversight on our part, a correction regarding mining claims in the Quinn Canyon Roadless Area was not included in our comments on the Humboldt Draft Management Plan and EIS dated September 30, 1985. We are asking that the following paragraph be added to our site-specific comments on wilderness

According to Appendix C of the Draft EIS, there are 900 mining claims in the Quinn Canyon Roadless Area. This figure is in error since most of these claims have been abandoned. At the present time there are only slightly more than one hundred claims, most of which are located near the northwest border of the roadless area. A simple adjustment of boundaries would eliminate most of these claims. Our map delineates a boundary that would have this effect and enable the majority of the Quinn Canyon Roadless Area to be recommended for wilderness without major conflicts.

Thank you for your consideration in allowing us to insert this paragraph.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Sill

Marjorie Sill
Toiyabe Chapter Chair

OCT 2 1985

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A Review and Critique of the
Proposed land and Resource Management Plan
and the
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

for the

Humboldt National Forest

Nevada

Submitted on behalf of the

Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter

by

Marjorie Sill

Reno, Nevada

September 30, 1985

OCT 2 1985

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SIERRA CLUB

Toiyabe Chapter – Nevada and Eastern California

PLEASE REPLY TO: ☐ ____________

☐ GREAT BASIN GROUP
P.O. Box 8096
University Station
Reno, Nevada 89507

☐ LAS VEGAS GROUP
P.O. Box 19777
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

September 30, 1985

B. J. Graves, Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Hwy.
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Supervisor Graves,

Enclosed are the comments of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club regarding the Proposed Land and Resource Management Plan and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Humboldt National Forest.

The comments are submitted to the Forest Service on behalf of the 2,000 Nevadans and Californians who are members of the Toiyabe Chapter and who live near or recreate in the Humboldt National Forest. Volunteers who assisted in the preparation of these comments are listed in the Appendix. We have spent many hours in the review and evaluation of the documents as the Forest Plan is vitally important to the proper management of our Forest resources, not only for our members and the general public, but also for new members and citizens who will be born during the 50 year life of the Plan. We have striven to be constructive in our comments so as to help develop the best possible plan we are all able to produce. Please take our comments in this light.

We have attempted to set forth in our detailed comments the major shortcomings of concern to us, and the basis for our conclusion that none of the alternatives is acceptable. We recommend that the Forest Service modify the preferred alternative to avoid the shortcomings we have identified.

We wish to express our appreciation to you and your planning staff for developing this monumental plan and for being helpful in assisting us in understanding the planning process. We look forward to a continuation of that constructive working relationship.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Sill

Marjorie Sill, Chair
Toiyabe Chapter

OCT 2 1985

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193 CONT. COMMENTS

OCT : 1985

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I. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Principal Findings

The draft planning documents prepared by the Forest Service for the Humboldt National Forest present the details of a very extensive multi-disciplinary analysis. Although the proposed Plan is comprehensible (if overly repetitive), much information about resource capability, actual use, and conflicts has been omitted. The draft EIS is not comprehensible and, together with the size of both documents and appendices, result in intimidating the average citizen from effective participation in the forest planning process. 193-1

On the other hand, many of the goals, standards, guidelines, and resource action plans in the proposed Plan are generally excellent and a long over-due step in improving resource management and protection of Forest resources.

Despite the progress indicated by the excellent parts of the proposed Plan, our review of these documents has lead us to find that there are several major shortcomings in the analysis. These major shortcomings include:

- an unjustified elimination from wilderness recommendation in the proposed Forest Plan of 84% of Forest roadless areas. 193-2
- a substantial undervaluing of both wilderness and other currently roadless natural areas which are providing a very important combination of recreational, wildlife, and scenic benefits to both residents and visitors to the region. 193-3
- a substantial lack of management direction and attention to the deteriorating trail resource of the Forest. 193-4
- inadequate responses to the issues of wildlife, range, and riparian areas. 193-5

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on these and other findings which are presented in detail in the sections that follow, we have reached the conclusion that the preferred alternative with substantive modifications may be acceptable as a basis for managing the Forest. The modified alternative should be based on a revised analysis which eliminates the biases and deficiences detailed in our comments.

As a minimum, the modified preferred alternative should include:

- a more efficient, less repetitive, format and organization 193-6

Sierra Club Page I-1

RESPONSES

SIERRA CLUB

193-1 In reviewing and revising the Final Plan we have attempted to streamline the document where possible.

The purpose of the Forest Plan is to provide a framework and direction for future management. It is not the intent of the Plan to identify every conflict and event that may occur on the Forest. To do so would be impractical and generate a planning document incomprehensible to the general public.

193-2 We disagree with your statement that the Humboldt National Forest has unjustfiably eliminated roadless areas from wilderness recommendation. In the Forest's DEIS nine alternatives, with varying management emphasis and a broad range of recommended wilderness acreage, were comparatively evaluated. We feel that the "Preferred Alternative", presented as the Humboldt National Forest's Plan, provides a mix of resource outputs, including wilderness, that best meets the overall needs of the public.

193-3 We disagree with your statement that we have substantially undervalued roadless areas in the Humboldt National Forest's Plan. In evaluating these roadless areas all resource values were addressed, including recreational, wildlife, and scenic benefits.

193-4 Our management direction is to maintain an adequate trail system to meet public needs.

193-5 Please refer to our later responses dealing specifically with each of these issues.

193-6 We have revised several sections of the Plan to clarify and streamline the document.

193 CONT.

COMMENTS

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OCT 9

- an increased management emphasis on the Forest trail system 193-7
- an increased management emphasis on improving wildlife habitat, range condition and the condition of riparian areas 193-8
- wilderness recommendations for the following areas:+ 193-9

Jarbidge Additions	54,000
Elk Mountain	12,000
Santa Rosa	80,000
Ruby Mountains	143,000
East Humboldt	27,000
Pearl Peak	23,000
Schell Peaks	120,000
Mount Moriah	88,000
Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone)	120,000
Currant Mountain (Duckwater)	49,000
Grant Range	60,000
Quinn Canyon Range	95,000

+ These figures represent reductions in the total Forest Service roadless area acreages through boundary adjustments to eliminate many of the conflicts used in the proposed Plan and DEIS to justify non-wilderness recommendations.

RESPONSES

193-7 Please refer to response 193-4.

193-8 Please refer to our later responses dealing specifically with each of these issues.

193-9 Please refer to our responses specific to each of the individual roadless areas.

Gui.

193

II. COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED PLAN

A. General Comments on Format and Organization

The document is written clearly. Jargon is kept to a minimum. Chapters are divided and the text is well organized. The major format and organizational failing of the proposed Plan is in the section on Management Area Direction. Instead of putting the common directions, standards and guidelines in the Forest-wide section, the proposed Plan repeats them in every management area section. Area-specific information is lost in the verbiage. This choice of format is obfuscating, frustrating, and extremely inefficient, adding over 50% to the length of the proposed Plan document. This problem should be corrected in the final Plan. 193-10

193-10 Management direction, standards and guidelines common to the entire Forest have now been consolidated into a Forest-wide section. This revised section is in Chapter IV of the Final Plan.

B. Comments on the Analysis of Management Situation

There is much useful information contained in this section, most of it in summary form. Much information has been omitted in the interests of keeping the proposed Plan to a reasonable length. It is impossible, however, for the public to know whether gaps in information are a result of information being summarized or omitted or for some other reason, or from just not being known to the Forest Service. Our following questions on the AMS seek information necessary for us to evaluate the proposed Plan, the alternatives in the draft environmental impact statement as well as the analysis of the impacts of implementing those alternatives. Please provide the information, or advise us that the information is not known.

Zone of Influence - p. II-3.
Why weren't Washoe, Carson City and Clark counties considered in either the primary or secondary zones of influence? We believe part of the problem with the lack of direction in the Plan and current Forest management is the belief that the Humboldt National Forest is a rural forest. We believe that, even currently, most of the Forest use is from urban residents. As nearby urban populations grow, the need for recreation, both developed and dispersed will also grow. The Humboldt National Forest should be directing its services and programs towards its major users over the next fifty years and, therefore, acquiring a more supportive constituency in obtaining budget requirements, volunteers, etc. 193-11

193-11 Washoe, Carson City, and Clark counties were all included in a loosely defined secondary zone of influence, as discussed in the Summary of the AMS. We agree that this was not adequate in addressing overall public needs. As such, we have more specifically defined the Secondary Zone of Influence and clarified the roles of these counties in this Zone.

Recreation - p. II-3.
Does the Humboldt National Forest have any actual statistics on where visitors are from? How were the 579,000 recreation visitor days calculated? On our many outings to the Humboldt NF, we rarely see Forest personnel, especially away from developed 193-12

193-12 Visitor use days were calculated based on registration at trailheads, fee deposit envelopes, visitor welcome information forms, random samplings and personal observations.

The Final Plan puts more emphasis on recreation and will bring all developed recreation sites up to standard.

193 CONT.

COMMENTS

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recreation sites. We are dismayed at the prdiction on p. II-4 of the continuing deterioration of developed public recreation and strongly urge that the Forest put more of its resources in this area. 193-12

Trails - p. II-6.
The deterioration of the 994 mile trail system is a tragic loss, both of the prior investment of public funds and of an invaluable Forest resource. Trails are not only necessary for access to the Forest, but also can be used as a management tool to control recreational use of sensitive or heavily used areas. How many miles of trails are maintained annually? How many miles of trail have been abandonned. We strongly recommend that Forest trail maps be revised to eliminate displayed trails which "...present hazards to users." A statistical breakdown of trails per management area with estimates of condition and extent of use would be very useful in understanding this resource. 193-13

Wilderness - pp. II-8&9.
Table II-14 (referred to on p. II-9) does not provide a list of roadless areas being evaluated for wilderness. We were unaware of a Wilderness Management Plan completed in 1983 for the Jarbidge Wilderness. Please send us a copy. There is no indication in the AMS that the Humboldt NF has dropped over 200,000 acres of roadless areas from review and evaluation. Which areas were dropped and why? 193-14

Wildlife & Fish - pp. II-9 to 12.
We were disappointed in the lack of information in this section. The Forest seems to know more about its mineral resources than its wildlife. Why is the number of management indicator species so small? Doesn't the Humboldt National Forest have other habitats than the ones listed in Table II-5? The Nevada Department of Wildlife's plan has been completed for some time and should be reflected in the proposed Plan. 193-15

Range - pp. II-12 to 14.
Is there no range in excellent condition? How much of the 84% range in poor and fair condition is considered satisfactory? Does the Forest consider fair condition range with a downward trend to be satisfactory? Why is the Forest giving such high priority to the development of Allotment Management Plans? Unless all the unsatisfactory condition range is in the 10% of the allotments without AMPs, some of the AMPs must be inadequate to improve range conditions. Does the Forest intend to revise unsatisfactory AMPs? Does the Forest intend to reduce livestock numbers in overgrazed areas? Why are there no wild horses in the Mt. Moriah and Murphy Wash wild horse territories? What are predation losses over the last 10 years on the Forest? How much predator control is practiced on the Humboldt NF (number and types of predators and non-target animals killed per year and per management area as well as methods of predator control used)? How is "...shooting coyotes from aircraft in the winter..." consistent with the next statement, "Control efforts are directed at offending animals where need is demonstrated"? How much 193-16

RESPONSES

193-13 The Forest maintains approximately 200 miles of trail a year.

We are in the process of doing an updated inventory on the Humboldt National Forest's trail system. Until this survey is completed we will not know how many miles of the 994 are no longer in existence.

The Forest strives to maintain-trails in a condition that is safe for public use, however hazards are a natural occurrence along all trails. As such, it would be impractical to eliminate those trails with hazards from maps.

We agree a breakdown of trail information would be very useful, however this information is not available at this time.

193-14 The reference to Table II-14 is in error. Roadless areas being evaluated for wilderness recommendation are included in Table C-1 of Appendix C.

The Jarbidge Wilderness Management Plan was updated in 1983 and incorporated into the Forest Plan.

All roadless areas were reviewed and evaluated in the DEIS. The "Preferred Alternative", now presented as the Forest Plan, includes a recommendation for 268,300 acres of wilderness. Roadless area evaluation is covered in Appendix C.

193-15 National Forest Management Act (NFMA) regulations directed the Forest Service to identify management indicator species (MIS). The number of MIS may not be important as long as direction established within NFMA, regarding MIS, has been met within the FEIS/Plan. The purpose of MIS designation is discussed in Chapter III of the FEIS and Chapter II of the Plan.

Yes, the Humboldt National Forest contains many more habitat types than those presented in Table II-5. The intent of the table was to identify those vegetative types in which management indicator species occur. The heading for Table II-5 has been changed to reflect its proper intent.

The goals and strategies presented within the Nevada Department of Wildlife's Policy Plan for wildlife management are reflected in the FEIS/Plan.

193-16 For planning purposes the five range condition classes outlined in the Intermountain Region Range Analysis Handbook were reduced to three. Fair condition rating includes only acreage in fair condition, while the good category includes all range in good and excellent condition and the poor category includes all range in poor and very poor condition.

Fair range in a stable or upward trend is considered satisfactory. Poor range is not in satisfactory condition. In terms of a dynamic resource, poor range with an upward trend, while not being in satisfactory condition, is showing definite improvement and progressing toward a higher condition class. Data for trend is not available on an exact acreage basis or percent of range exhibiting satisfactory and unsatisfactory trends.

193 CONT.

COMMENTS

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livestock trespass occurs annually on the Humboldt National Forest? 193-16

Water - pp. II-15&16.
What is the basis for the estimate that 25% of riparian areas is in poor condition? From our observations, we would have made a much higher estimate. Rarely, have we seen a healthy riparian area. In fact, we believe that the poor and deteriorating condition of riparian areas is one of the worst resource management problems on the Humboldt National Forest. 193-17

Minerals - pp. II-16 to 22.
Why is there no information on mining rehabilitation? The Humboldt NF is doing a very good job with mining road rehabilitation and should describe it here. Isn't rehabilitation a part of the management situation for minerals? 193-18

Lands - pp. II-23&24.
Forest lands identifed for disposal should be listed here by management area. How much trespass is occurring on NF lands? 193-19

Research Natural Areas - pp. II-26&27.
We support all five proposed RNAs and suggest other canditate sites for each significant ecosystems managed by the Humboldt NF be identifed and recommended. 193-20

Soils - pp. II-27&28.
We were surprised to find no mention in this section of an objective of preventing soil erosion. Has the Forest Service abandoned its traditional objectives in this area? 193-21

Transportation - pp.II-28&29.
Please provide more detail on roads - number of miles per management area, type, condition, number of miles maintained, estimated levels of use, number of miles rehabilitated each year per management area, etc. 193-22

Need to Establish or Change Management Direction - pp.II-31 to 33
We agree with most of the needs listed for establishing or changing management direction in this section. However, on the whole, they seem to fall far short of what is required to solve resource management problems disclosed in the AMS. We strongly oppose two of them, however. We are unaware of any need to revise the eastern boundard of the Jarbidge Wilderness. We are also not aware of any allotment in which livestock grazing should be increased and a large number of allotments in which it should be decreased to reduce overgrazing. Such a need should be identified in this section. 193-23

Research Needs - p. II-33.
Is the "syecology" mentioned in this section actually "synecology?" We would like to add another research need - bitterbrush and mountain mahogany regeneration - areas of critical importance to maintaining quality wildlife habitat. 193-24

RESPONSES

No, fair range in a downward trend is not satisfactory.

An allotment management plan is a comprehensive evaluation of the resources on an allotment and provides long term direction on how those resources will be managed to meet current forage needs as well as other multiple uses. the Final Forest Plan will replace all resource allocation plans except allotment management plans. Because of the need for-specific conflict resolution, preparation of allotment plans is considered a priority for future management.

Allotment management plans are revised preiodically as needed to meet changing management situations.

Livestock use is managed to maintain proper use of the forage resource. Livestock use in overgrazed areas will be managed to correct the problem. This is stated repeatedly in the goals, objectives, management direction, and standards and guidelines of the Forest Plan.

Since 1977 no horses have been sighted in these territories. Small herds quite often do not maintain themselves for various reasons and die out or move away. The habitat condition on these territories does not warrant reestablishing wild horse herds on them.

Specific information on predation losses, the numbers of target and non-target animals killed, and control methods used is available from APHIS which is responsible for predator control on National Forest System Lands.

Aerial shooting is used in conjunction with summer trapping and placement of M-44's in areas where livestock losses to predation are extremely high and summer control alone has not been effective. Control is directed to problem areas. In areas where mountain lions are the target species, control efforts are directed at the offending animal. This section of the Plan has been revised to clarify these points.

Limited unauthorized use ("trespass") occurs occasionally on various portions of the Humboldt National Forest. When unauthorized use occcurs immediate action is taken to alleviate the problem.

193-17 The estimate that 25% of the riparian area is in poor condition is generated from range analysis conducted on the Humboldt National Forest. Range analysis information has been collected on all allotments within the Forest. We agree that riparian area management is at the fore-front of resource management on the Humboldt National Forest.

193-18 We agree that an explanation of the Humboldt National Forest's rehabilitation program is lacking. The Final Plan includes an expanded description which has been added to Chapter II, "Current Management Direction."

193-19 The Forest Service is not mandated to dispose of National Forest System Lands. National Forest lands can be exchanged however. Lands identified for exchange are included in the Forest Lands Adjustment Plan. This plan is incorporated into the planning records which can be obtained at the Humboldt National Forest Supervisor's Office in Elko, Nevada. No occupancy trespass is known to occur on the Forest at present occupancy trespass cases are dealt with promptly when they are discovered.

COMMENTS

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Table II-15 - p. II-34.
A brief explanation and interpretation of this table would be helpful. The format is quite clear; the meaning of the categories could be clearer. For instance, please explain the statements about elastic demand. Why is the supply of wilderness so much lower than the demand? Why are the figures for the RPA alternative the same as those for the maximum use in the Permitted Livestock Use Activity category? 193-25

C. COMMENTS ON RESPONSES TO ISSUES, CONCERNS, & OPPORTUNITIES

We disagree with the proposed Plan responses to several identified issues.

Issue #1 - p. III-1.
While we appreciate the Humboldt NF wilderness recommendations for Mt. Moriah, Wheeler Peak, Ruby Mountains, Grant Range, and Jarbidge additions, we believe that several other roadless areas should have been recommended for wilderness and that boundaries for several areas which were recommended should be adjusted. 193-26

The Humboldt NF has failed to realize that the unique resource on the Forest is the potential of the roadless areas for superb wilderness. At present this wilderness resource is barely represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Unfortunately, the Humboldt NF has given less protection to this wilderness resource in its preferred alternative than it did in its RARE II recommendations. Quinn Canyon is no longer recommended for wilderness, the size of the Grant Range recommendation has been cut by one-third, the recommendations on the Jarbidge Additions, and Mt. Moriah have been decreased, and the Wheeler Peak recommendation is far smaller than the area designated for study under the Further Planning category.

We urge the Humboldt NF not to underestimate its wilderness resource, not to allow the opinions of a few local special interest groups to uduly influence decisions that affect the national interest. Weilderness must be recommended on the basis of outstanding natural values, not on local politics. The Sierra Club supports the following areas for wilderness recommendation: 193-27

areas	acreages
Jarbidge Additions	54,000
Elk Mountain	12,000
Santa Rosa	80,000
Ruby Mountains	143,000
East Humboldt	27,000
Pearl Peak	23,000
Schell Peaks	120,000
Mount Moriah	88,000
Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone)	120,000

Page II-4

Sierra Club

RESPONSES

193-20 We recognize the desirability of having RNA's representing significant
ecosystems on the Humboldt National Forest. However, we feel this can
be handled best on a regional basis in conjunction with the other 15
National Forests in the Intermountain Region. We worked closely with
the Nature Conservancy in identifying and proposing the 5 candidate
RNA's.

193-21 The Forest intends to minimize soil erosion under the approved land
management plan. Soil erosion was tracked throughout the planning
document as changes in soil productivity. A more complete treatment
of rationale used in equating soil erosion with changes in soil
productivity is presented in the FEIS.

193-22 The Humboldt Forest road system is comprised of over 3,000 miles of
roads. Of this 3,000 miles, approximately 2% is high standard paved
or gravel surfaced roads, approximately 12% is graded and drained, and
86% of the road system is primitive with native surface and requires
higher clearance vehicles for passage.

Each year the Forest maintains approximately 15% of its total road
system. Since we can maintain only a small portion of the roads we
have to annually review the condition of the roads on each District
and plan to repair the critical areas. These areas change annually
depending on weather patterns, flood damage, and concentrations of
recreation, mining and other uses. Long range maintenance plans would
be meaningless since these factors are not administratively
controlable.

Traffic levels on most roads on the Forest are low. The traffic
levels on 85 to 95% of the roads are less than 20 vehicles per day.
The estimated 86% of our roads that are primitive receive average
daily vehicle use of less than 5 vehicles per day.

This land management plan is proposing 5 miles of reconstruction of
roads annually beginning in 1995. At this time it is pointless to
attempt to schedule this small volume of work.

All roads could use some reconstruction. As we get closer to the time
when we plan the reconstruction we will evaluate the Forest's needs
and specify the work to be accomplished.

No new road construction is anticipated to occur on the Forest in this
planning period, with the exception of mining roads which are
addressed on a case-by-case basis. Further, reconstruction and
maintenance will be carried out over a limited area. Because of this
limited program and the minimal impacts expected we feel that
addressing the roads by each management area is of little value.

193-23 The existing eastern boundary is on a section line and crosses an
existing road in at least four places. This road is used by a sheep
permittee to pull his camp to an area that is not in the wilderness
and at one time this road was a highly used recreation road. This
conflict can be resolved by moving the boundary a short distance to
the west off the section line to the top of the ridge, thus opening
the road to use and establishing the boundary on a natural barrier.
This action impacts less than 10 acres.

193 CONT.

COMMENTS

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Currant Mountain (Duckwater)	49,000
Grant Range	60,000
Quinn Canyon Range	95,000

193-27

Issue #2 - p. III-1.
The responses to this issue are totally inadequate. Full standards and guidelines for wildlife must be included in the final Forest Plan. A direction to support reintroductions should be included. This issue was second to wilderness as being of interest to the public, but this concern is not reflected in the proposed Plan. 193-28

Minerals - p. III-1.
Minerals management is more than evaluating 234 leases and operating plans annually. We suggest the response include environmental protection and rehabilitation requirements as well as the apparent emphasis on facilitating mineral extraction. 193-29

Issue #4 - p. III-1&2.
While adjusting livestock numbers to carrying capacity is necessary for effective range management, this section suggests that grazing capacity will be increased before livestock numbers will be adjusted. Please clarify. What is "satisfactory" ecological condition of range? We question whether the directions and activities on range in the proposed Plan will be adequate to stop the widespread overgrazing and poor livestock management practices plaguing large areas in the Humboldt NF. 193-30

Issue #5 - p. III-2.
The travel plan should be reevaluated and off road vehicles should be limited to existing roads and trails in areas suffering resource damage. 193-31

D. COMMENTS ON FOREST MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

A. Forest Management Goals & Objectives - pp. IV-1 to 16.

Most of the goals are very laudable and have general public support. We do have some questions and suggestions for additions and modifications.

Goal #5
What does the statement, "Provide a system of media and signing" mean? 193-32

Goal #10
Add the Osceola Ditch to sites being evaluated for National Register status. 193-33

Goal #17
Isn't adjusting livestock numbers to carrying capacity due to monitoring of utilization, trend, and condition data, not to monitoring of allotment management plans? Please clarify. 193-34

RESPONSES

The Forest Service has been mandated to optimize livestock production to the extent that the inherent productivity of the land is sustained, and in a manner that is compatible with other resource uses. It was the intent of this statement to express a need for continued evaluation of the Forest's grazing program and adjustment of livestock numbers, either upward or downward, where necessary to comply with this mandate. The statement has been revised to more clearly reflect this intent.

193-24 Syecology has been changed to synecology.

A fourth research need has been established which states "the development of bitterbrush and mountain mahogany regeneration necessary to maintain or enhance the quality and quantity of critical wildlife habitat."

193-25 We feel table II-15 is adequately presented.

Grazing permit and fuelwood demand is variable and based on shifts in the respective private markets. As such we considered the demand to be "elastic" and not predictable.

In the Forest's DEIS nine alternatives, with varying management emphasis and a broad range of recommended wilderness acreage, were comparatively evaluated. Alternative J provided for the maximum supply of wilderness RVD's and fully met the anticipated demand. Other alternatives provided less wilderness outputs but responded in varying degrees to other resource uses. We feel that the Forest Plan provides a combination of resource outputs, including wilderness, that best meets the overall needs of the public.

Every 10 years, a comprehensive, nationwide assessment is made of the forest and rangeland renewable resources in the United States. Using information generated at the local and regional levels, the RPA Assessment covers timber, range, minerals, water, wildlife and fish, outdoor recreation, and wilderness. Long-range projections are made of future supply and demand for each of these resources. The findings are then used to help determine the desired level of future National Forest Service programs. The Forest Service then assigns targets to each of its nine regions which in turn assign targets to the National Forests. The Humboldt National Forest has been assigned a target of 327,000 AUM's per year between 1986 and 1990. Because we feel that the Humboldt National Forest does not have the capability to supply that number during that period, we have used our estimated maximum production figure as the RPA Alternative's supply potential.

193-26 In reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, several significant revisions have been made in the wilderness recommendation. These are depicted in Appendix C of the Final Plan.

193-27 In the Forest's DEIS nine alternatives, with varying management emphasis and a broad range of recommended wilderness acreages were comparatively evaluated. We feel that the "Preferred Alternative", presented as the Humboldt National Forest's Plan, provides a mix of resource outputs, including wilderness that best meets the overall needs of the public.

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[illegible]

Goal #22
If the Forest is going to cooperate with APHIS, we'd like to see this goal expanded to include environmental protection added - no spraying of pesticides in watersheds, streams, lakes, and rivers, near T&E species habitats, etc. 193-34

Goal #23
What is an "effective" predator control program? If cost-benefit analyses were done, we're not sure there would be any publicly funded predator control program. 193-35

Goal #27
We oppose the use of aspen in higher elevation sites or riparian areas for firewood. These stands should be managed as part of riparian ecosystems and for critical wildlife habitat and public recreational values, and any cutting done on a prescriptive basis only. 193-36

Goal #44
What are nonrecreation private structures and why should any be permitted at all on national forest lands? 193-37

We were struck by two obvious omissions to this long list of Forest goals. Why are there no goals identified for protection of bristlecone pines? Why are there no goals identifed for wilderness? Are these not important Forest resources? 193-38

B. Forest-wide Standards & Guidelines - pp.IV-16 to 36

We support most of the listed standards and guidelines as positive steps in improving resource management and solving resource conflicts in the Humboldt NF. The standards and guidelines for several resources, however, show a lack of Forest commitment and concern as well as compliance with National Forest mandates which we feel threaten the adequacy of the proposed Plan.

Riparian Area Management - pp. IV-26&27.
We support the listed standards and guidelines, but feel they fall far short of what is required to adequately manage, protect, and rehabilitate this neglected and deteriorating Forest resource. We strongly urge the Forest to adopt additional forest-wide standards and guidelines for riparian area management. There are many excellent standards and guidelines on riparian area management in the management area direction sections. The ones common to all the areas should be put into this forest-wide section. In Appendix E, we have included riparian area standards and guidelines from the proposed Toiyabe National Forest plan as other examples which can be used to develop a comprehensive list in the Forest-wide section. 193-39

Range Management - pp. IV-27&28.
There are good standards and guidelines listed here, but, again, 193-40

193-28 Within the Draft Plan, Forest-wide standards and guidelines were incorporated into each management area write-up. This led to considerable redundancy among the management area texts. Management direction, standards, and guidelines common to the entire forest have now been consolidated into a Forest-wide section. The revised section is in Chapter IV of the Final Plan.

A Forest-wide management direction regarding the reintroduction of wildlife species has been added into the text. Refer to Chapter IV of the Plan for the new management direction.

The need to strengthen the wildlife emphasis, as presented within the DEIS/Plan, was a common theme brought out as part of the public comments. In order to bring the wildlife emphasis up to parity with the public's concern, changes have been made within the following sections of the Final Plan:

- a) Forest-wide management direction, standards and guidelines.
- b) Management area activity tables.
- c) Forest action schedules.
- d) Management area prescriptions

193-29 Evaluation of leases and operating plans naturally includes the preparation of NEPA documents addressing the impacts involved and the preparation of reclamation plans or mitigating measures to minimize the effects of those impacts.

193-30 It is one of the goals of the Humboldt National Forest's grazing program to bring livestock numbers into balance with available forage capacity. In many situations this requires initial reductions in livestock numbers. If additional forage is then produced through improved management, the Forest may allow an increase in livestock numbers. For clarification, wording to this effect has been incorporated into this statement.

Good condition ranges are those rangelands determined to be at ecological potential, while fair condition ranges are those near potential. Those significantly below ecological potential are considered to be in poor condition. "Satisfactory Ecological Condition" is defined as those rangelands in fair or better condition with a static or upward trend. "Unsatisfactory Ecological Condition" is defined as those ranges in poor condition or in fair condition with a downward trend. Both definitions have been included in the Glossary of Terms section.

We disagree with your contention that there is widespread overgrazing and poor managment practices occuring on the Humboldt National Forest. We do recognize, however, that conflicts with domestic livestock do exist in some areas. It is the purpose of the direction and management activities presented in the Humboldt's Forest Plan to guide us in resolving these conflicts. We feel confident that this direction, coupled with site specific decisions at the District level, will allow us to meet the goals and objectives presented in the Forest Plan.

193-31 We agree. We review our travel plan annually and make revisions when necessary.

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they do not go far enough to solve resource problems and substantially improve range conditions in the Humboldt NF. We will list several modifications of standards here. Others can be taken from ones in the management area direction sections.

- Change (c) to read "Develop Allotment Management Plans for each allotment and revise every existing plan in allotments in unsatisfactory condition. 193-40

- Change (n) to delete "...if it is feasible to implement," as these "weasel words" permit too many exceptions to this otherwise good standard. We suggest that if discretion needs to be built into this standard, it should be limited to the biological suitability of the rangeland for a management system.

Minerals Management - pp. IV-28&29.
A stronger standard for rehabilitation (and bonding) is needed in this section. We strongly support the standard on requiring validity exams on mining claims located in wilderness areas. 193-41

D. PROJECTED BUDGET & OUTPUTS - pp. IV-36 to 39.

Table IV-2 - p. IV-37.
Why do projected average annual outputs for pinenuts fall drastically from 1990-2035? Why is there no projected increase in WFUDs for wildlife over 50 years? Why is there a drop in AUMs of permitted livestock use between 1995 and 2000? 193-42

Table IV-3 - p. IV-38.
Why are no range activities projected for the Forest Plan? What trails will have .7 and .1 mile constructed/reconstructed between 1995 and 2010? 193-43

Table IV-4 - p. IV-39.
This table is difficult to decipher. The "activities" should not be so abbreviated as to obscure their meanings. What is "recreation op," "range res o&m," "rural comm & hd," "fa & o const," etc.? Why does "range res imp" drop off so drastically over 50 years? 193-44

E. DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION OF THE FOREST - pp. IV-40 to 48.

We were disappointed with this section as the future it shows for the Humboldt NF is not very bright. Rather, it shows a Forest barely hanging together, barely meeting minimum management requirements, barely providing minimal public services. If this is a true picture, the proposed Plan must be revised now to develop better and more innovative strategies to improve management, resolve resource conflicts, develop resources - all with limited Forest budgets. 193-45

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193-32 The statement means that the Forest intends to upgrade its sign and information program to a level adequate to meet the public's increasing need in this area. The statement has been rewritten to clarify this intent.

193-33 Osceola Ditch has been added to sites being evaluated for recommendation to National Register status.

193-34 Utilization studies, trend studies, and condition data are all tools used in monitoring the effectiveness of an allotment management plan in accomplishing specific objectives. Those objectives, in turn, are designed to resolve specific issues and concerns generated in the decision making process. We feel that the statement is accurate and clearly written and as such stands in the text as presented.

139-34A Prior to any use of pesticides a site-specific environmental analysis is conducted and an environmental document is prepared which will be tied to the existing NEPA documents. Appropriate restrictions and mitigating measures to protect streams, lakes, rivers, T&E species, habitats, etc. are specified in the NEPA documents.

193-35 The predator control program is conducted by APHIS in cooperation with State and Federal land managing agencies. The Forest Service supports this program by making recommendations on the need for control, methods to be used, and special precautions needed, and by evaluating the environmental effects of predator control. No Forest Service funds are expended for actual predator control. Goal #23 has been revised to clarify the Forest's role in predator control.

The APHIS goal for predator control is to provide assistance in the reduction of damage caused by predators without adverse environmental effects.

193-36 All of the harvesting of green aspen is done on a prescriptive basis with the emphasis on stand regeneration for wildlife habitat improvement or enhancement of other resource values. Aspen that are dead and down are available for fire wood harvesting within the standard permit restrictions listed in the standard and guidelines in Chapter IV.

193-37 Examples of non-recreational structures are electronic site buildings, mining structures, power lines, etc. These types of uses are provided for by law and are authorized through the Forest's special use permit system. These uses are allowed where private land is not available to accomodate the use.

193-38 A Forest Goal for the management of Bristlecone Pine has been added to the text as Goal # 58.

Wilderness values are provided for as part of Goal #1, Goal #4 and Goal #5.

193-39 Management direction, standards and guidelines common to the entire Forest have now been consolidated into the Forest-wide section. This revised section is in Chapter IV of the Final Plan. Additionally, we have strengthened the standards and guidelines section and incorporated some of those from the Toiyabe's Plan where appropriate.

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F. MANAGEMENT AREA DIRECTION - PP. IV-48 to 507.

193-45 The management area direction should be the heart of the Forest Plan. Unfortunately, reviewing this section was a very frustrating and tedious experience. We found management directions and guidelines which had already been stated in the section on Forest-wide directions repeated here. We found that most of the management directions, standards and guidelines repeated in each of the management areas, so that over 400 repetitious pages had to be reviewed to learn what the Forest Plan intended for each of the management areas. The site-specific activities were buried among the voluminous repetitions. Directions, standards and guidelines missing from the Forest-wide provisions were stated repeatedly in the management area sections. No location maps were included with the management areas, so constant reference had to be made to the Forest map. The scale is so large that specific areas of scheduled activities were very difficult to locate.

193-46 Because of the confusing format, we could not ascertain whether the management area proposals were actually responsive to public concerns and to problems identified by the Forest Service. We strongly urge that this section be revised in the final Plan. General directions, standards and guidelines should be extracted from the management area sections and put in the Forest-wide section, leaving site-specific provisions only in the management area sections. Location maps showing more area characteristics and sites of proposed management actions should be included in each management area.

Our specific comments on the management areas follow:

Mountain City Management Area
The description of the area is excellent. The reader can get a real sense of the quality of the area, resource problems and opportunities.

193-47 The management prescriptions seemed fairly general. Are prescriptions supposed to describe priorities for management or management emphasis or levels of management? For example, that livestock grazing and firewood cutting will continue could have been predicted by the reader. What can't be predicted or determined from this section is which resource will be emphasized and given management priority, and at what levels will management occur. Please clarify.

193-48 Proposed and Probable Management Practices. What are "probable" This is a very comprehensive section. Does this mean that the 26 pages of listed management practices? practices may or may not take place? If so, their "probability" should be quantified so the public will have a reasonable idea of what is actually proposed in the Forest Plan for this management area.

It is difficult for us to comment on the hundreds of practices,

RESPONSES

193-40 We have revised our format for listing the standards and guidelines to show direction first on a Forest-wide basis and then specifically in a management area. This has greatly reduce the total printed material.

We agree. Item C read "Develop allotment management plans for each allotment not now covered and continue revising those AMP's as needed."

We do not agree that the statement "... if it is feasible to implement," is "weasel wording." It is not possible to implement a rest rotation system on all allotments for various reasons and not all the reasons are biological. Additional factors include long term economic cost of a program, topography and implementation costs. Our intent is to have all allotments under a management system which will provide for satisfactory ecological condition.

193-41 We feel the statements on Page IV-29 (statements a., c., d., and e) do provide for reclamation sufficiently, as a policy statement. The reclamation and bonding requirements would, as a matter of process, be included in those above statements. However, we have added three standards and guidelines to the Forest section which more specifically defines direction for our rehabilitation program.

193-42 Pinenut production over time was estimated, incorporating variables such as wilderness designation, pinenut production cycles, and vegetative manipulation projects designed to remove pinyon pine.

Table IV-2 projects an increase of WFUD's from 149,402 in 1986 to 152,721 in 2035, representing a net change of 3,319 WFUD's.

There is not a drop in AUM's between 1995 and 2000. There is a drop between 1990 and 1995. This was a result of anticipated reductions on overstocked allotments during that time period.

193-43 Projected range activities are displayed within the Forest Action Schedule, part of Chapter IV in the Final Plan.

Miles of planned trail construction and reconstruction are contained within the Forest Action Schedule. The figures you refer to were in error and have been corrected in the Final Plan.

193-44 We feel table IV-4 adequately presents the material. A key to abbreviations is provided in the DIS.

The total projected cost of structural improvements is anticipated to drop over time as those improvements necessary to meet management objectives are completed.

193-45 We feel confident that the direction provided for in the Final Plan coupled with budget levels as described, will enable us to meet the goals and objectives presented. Management direction, standards, and guidelines common to the entire Forest have now been consolidated into a Forest-wide section. This revised section is in Chapter IV of the Final Plan.

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Management directions, standards and guidelines listed on the 26 pages. Most of the provisions appear to be generic. For those we would have generic responses. Other provisions are management area specific and require more specific responses. Yet the two are mixed indiscriminantly and it is almost impossible for the reviewer to sort out the specific from the general. 193-49

The management directions appear sound and should receive general public support. The standards and guidelines generally appear to carry out the directions, but we object to some and have questions about others.

Recreation.
What do the two standards (p. IV-61) mean - "Maintain trails to Level 3" and "Maintain signs to Level 4?" 193-50

Wildlife.
While we don't object to the guideline on "new transplants" (p. IV-63), we feel very strongly that native wildlife species should be reintroduced to their previous habitats and consideration for any conflicting uses should be secondary. 193-51

Range.
Does the statement, "Holding stocking levels of livestock on critical winter ranges to the carrying capacity" imply that stocking levels in non-critical winter range or other ranges are not held to carrying capacities? 193-52

We disagree with the priority of range allotment analysis (p. IV-67). We believe that first priority for grazing capacity evaluation should be "...when an allotment appears to be overobligated..." 193-53

We also strongly disagree that "...treating range to sustain existing use..." should have greater priority for range improvement than "...to improve range conditions..." These priorities should be reversed. 193-54

To the guideline (p. IV-69), "Vacant allotments and allotments in a nonuse status will be considered for use by other applicants," we support adding the provision - "...only if the allotments are in satisfactory condition." 193-55

East Humboldt Management Area.
The description of this area is minimal and should be expanded. Why is deer winter range "scarce?" Is there no suitable range or is the forage grazed off by the livestock in the "...lower benches and canyon bottoms?" How many permittees and allotments are in this area? How many allotments don't have AMPs? Is access within the area limited due to the lack of maintenance of the existing trail system? What is the scenic quality of the area? What is the water quality of this "...extremely important watershed...?" How does the increasing demand for water increase the chance of adverse impacts on Forest resources? 193-56

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RESPONSES

193-46 To include a map for each management area would result in exceptionally high publication costs for the Plan. We recognize there are some deficiencies in the Forest map, however, we feel that it is usable by the public.

193-47 Management prescriptions provide broad direction for each resource use occuring in a given management area.

It is not the intent of the management prescriptions to assign priorities to individual resource values. Because the Plan was developed within budget constraints it was assumed that all direction contained within the prescriptions and management directions will be accomplished within those budget constraints.

193-48 The title "Proposed and Probable Management Practices" has been revised to "Work Activities".

193-49 Management direction, standards and guidelines common to the entire Forest have now been consolidated into a Forest-wide section. This revised section is in Chapter IV of the Final Plan.

193-50 These terms have been included in the Plan's glossary for clarification.

193-51 Forest-wide management direction regarding the reintroduction of wildlife species has been added into the text. Refer to Chapter IV of the Plan for the new management direction.

193-52 No. It is a standard practice to adjust livestock numbers wherever there is a demonstrated need.

193-53 The statement was changed to indicate that all three factors are the priorities and that one is not more important than the others.

193-54 Since all of the factors are important and each is evaluated on a project by project basis, there is no need to list them by priority. The statement was revised.

193-55 We agree. The statement has been revised.

193-56 The description has been expanded in the Final Plan.

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There is insufficient information for the reader to know whether the management "prescriptions" are appropriate or not.			
Again, there are many excellent management directions, standards, and guidelines. The reader must wade through much that is duplicative to find ones that are unique to the E. Humboldts. Most of the provisions would apply to any site with developed recreation, wildlife, and range. Why weren't these broad and general directions, standards, and guidelines included in the Forest-wide section? Then the reader would be more able to determine what specifically applies to a particular management area, or if any specific actions are proposed. Putting the generally applicable material in the Forest-wide section while retaining specific actions in specific management areas would also decrease the size of the Plan by >50%, saving money and making the document more readable.	193-57	193-57	Please refer to response 193-51.
Actually, quite a few Forest-wide standards and guidelines have been repeated in the management area sections. This duplication is unnecessary and confusing. To avoid having to repeat our comments on directions, standards, and guidelines in each management area section, we incorporate all of our comments on each area as well as on the Forest-wide standards by reference to each management area.			
Specifically, in our experience, grazing management in the E. Humboldts is inadequate, second only to the Ruby Mountains. It is not at all clear that the actions in the proposed Plan adequately address these problems. In addition, the repetitive language conceals whether the trail system will be adequately maintained once the deteriorated sections are reconstructed. In addition, the Sierra Club supports this area as wilderness, and it has been included in pending Congressional legislation for wilderness designation.	193-58	193-58	The description has been expanded in the Final Plan.
Ruby Mountains Management Area The description of this area is very minimal, conveying little of the unique physical and biological character of this scenic area, nor of its values as a recreation resource. Little is disclosed about management problems or resource conflicts. The management prescriptions appear indistinguishable from the management directions. Management directions again are repetitive, as are standards and guidelines. Site-specific activities are buried in verbiage. We support management directions, standards and guidelines, except as noted.	193-59	193-59	We have revised the description to more adequately characterize the area.
Ruby Mtns. Recommended Wilderness Mgt. Area The area description is totally deficient. We support the prescription to preserve its wilderness characteristics. We support most of the management directions, standards, and guidelines, except as previously noted. We support directions and standards and guidelines designed to protect the wilderness resource. What are "special and serious losses of domestic	193-60	193-60	We feel the management area descriptions is adequate. Predator control will be accomplished within wilderness only in special cases. An example of a special case could be where an animal was denning in a wilderness area and causing serious losses adjacent to the wilderness.

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Livestock" referred to on p. IV-153?

Jarbidge Management Area
The description of the area is excellent, on the whole. More information is needed on the trail system - miles, levels of use, condition, etc. Management prescriptions are good, although we suggest a stronger one on range management. We strongly support the Jack Creek Crater RNA, reintroductions/introductions of elk, and wilderness for the Jarbidge additions. We support the management directions, guidelines, and standards, except as noted. 193-61

Jarbidge Wilderness & Additions
The description of this area is good. More information on trails should be included. The management prescriptions are good, although the one on range seems to imply that livestock grazing exceeds carrying capacities on allotments outside wilderness. Is this true? If the main conflict in the Wilderness "...exists between wilderness, recreation, and grazing," shouldn't one of the prescriptions address how this conflict will be resolved? What are the annual predation losses to livestock? What predator control methods are used? How many predators and non-target wildlife are killed each year? 193-62

We support most of the management directions, standards, and guidelines, except as noted. Information should be included in the proposed Plan about any needed wilderness boundary adjustment, including a location map and rationale for change. We would like to be consulted about any motor vehicle use by livestock permittees in wilderness. Please include this in the standard on p. IV-193. Please include in the guideline on predator control that the Forest Service will work with the permittee to also improve grazing practices that currently contribute to predation losses. 193-63

Mt. Moriah Management Area
The description of the area is fair. Information on riparian area conditions should be included. Were the "Twenty log and rock pool structures..." in Hendrys and Hampton Creeks destroyed by recent flooding? Why are there no wild horses in the Moriah WHT? Please consider reintroducing a small band into its original habitat if resource conditions are satisfactory. Better trailheads are needed in Hampton and Hendrys Creeks. 193-64

We support most of the management directions, standards, and guidelines, except as noted. Strengthen guideline #2 on p. IV-213 by eliminating "Consider..." in reducing livestock-wildlife conflicts. What is "RAMIS" data base mentioned on p. IV-217? 193-65

Mt. Moriah Recommended Wilderness Management Area
The area description is fair. Please explain the statement (on p. IV-241), "Overall watershed value is high with little potential for watershed improvement due to the high cost per benefit gained." We support the management prescriptions and most of the management directions, standards, and guidelines, 193-66

RESPONSES

193-61 We are presently inventoring and mapping in this area for inclusion in an updated trail plan.

193-62 Trails - please refer to response 193-61.

The description for the Jarbidge Management Area states that vegetation and soil conditions have improved since the early 1900's. The description further states that several allotments have the potential for increases in stocking rates. Included in the Forest Plan is an objective which specifies that livestock numbers will be adjusted either upward or downward, to carrying capacity.

Conflicts between grazing and wilderness and recreation exist only in isolated areas. Over one-half of the wilderness is closed to grazing. The description has been revised to include the above information.

The management prescription for range for the Jarbidge Wilderness and Recommended Additions states that livestock grazing will be managed to avoid detracting from wilderness values. The Wilderness Act of 1964 specifies that grazing of livestock shall be permitted to continue in wilderness areas. Within the framework of the Wilderness Act, the Forest Plan, and management prescriptions, site-specific plans will be maintained for each grazing allotment which address conflicts and outline actions to resolve these conflicts.

APHIS conducts predator control in cooperation with state and Federal agencies. Data on predation losses of livestock, control methods used, and numbers of target and non-target animals killed is available from APHIS.

APHIS has prepared an EIS which evaluated the predator control program and control methods used. The Humboldt National Forest has also prepared an Environmental Assessment evaluating control methods. Methods to be used, areas needing control, and special precautions needed are outlined in the Annual Operating Plan prepared by the Forest and APHIS.

193-63 Motorized vehicle use is allowed in wilderness areas in specific circumstances. Each case is evaluated individually and must be approved in the Grazing Permit for use occurring annually or periodically. All cases of this nature are discussed with interested publics prior to approval.

Emergency type actions where time is limited would be evaluated by the District Ranger and a decision made as soon as possible. In cases of this sort, the general public would probably not be involved. However, information on this type of authorization would be available to the public at the District Office.

193-64 We feel that the Mt. Moriah description is adequate and remains in the text as presented.

The twenty log structures in Hendry's and Hampton's were damaged by flooding but have been replaced.

In reference to the wild horse territories please refer to response 193-18.

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except as noted. Grazing management needs to be improved at the headwaters of Hampton and Hendrys Creeks to prevent riparian area degradation. 193-66

Schell Management Area
The area description is minimal for this popular recreational area. The mountain range is actually the Schell Creek Range. More information is needed on dispersed recreation use and trails. Where is the poor condition range located and what is the Forest Service doing to improve these areas? What condition are the riparian areas in? We support the management prescriptions, directions, standards, and guidelines, except as noted. We support restrictions on ORV use for all areas suffering resource damage, including Murphy Creek. 193-67

Snake Management Area
The area description is fair. The trail information is inaccurate. There are many more miles of trails in the area (see Forest Service map) than the 10 mentioned (p. IV-297), including the Highland Ridge Trail. Accurate information is needed on miles of trail, extent of use, and condition. Forest maps must be revised if poor condition trails will not be reconstructed and maintained. There is no information on roads. Grazing management in Lexington Canyon must be improved by enforcing utilization standards. Why are there no wild horses in the Murphy Wash WHT? Reintroductions should be considered. 193-68

We support the management prescriptions, directions, standards, and guidelines, except as noted. We object to the paving of the Baker Creek Road. There are adequate paved roads in the management area. Road money should be used to reconstruct the Lexington Arch access road so that it is usable by 2-wheel drive vehicles. No trail construction is shown in the Forest Action Plan as stated on p. IV-305. What is planned? 193-69

We would like to add several standards to the ORV management section (p. IV-304):
- close Johnson Lake Road to all motor vehicles, rehavilitate, and add to the wilderness recommendation.
- officially close the washed-out Big Wash Road and include the headwaters of Big Wash in the wilderness recommendation.
- gate the Pole Canyon Road to protect the bristle cone pines on Mt. Washington, with access strictly controlled by the Ely Ranger District. 193-70

We do not believe signing the Pole Canyon Road will prevent intentional or unintentional removal of bristlecone pine. (See our additional standard). We urge the Forest Service to declare special status for the bristlecone pine with any cutting or removal to be a felony offense. 193-71

Bristlecone Recommended Wilderness Management Area
The area description is minimal. We support management prescriptions, directions, standards, and guidelines, except as 193-72

193-65 Elimination of the word "consider" will not strengthen the guideline. The guideline was reworded for clarity and included within the Forest-wide section on management direction, standards, and guidelines.

RAMIS stands for Range Management Information System. RAMIS is a computerized data base containing information on grazing permits, range allotments, range condition and trend information, and range improvements.

193-66 The overall watershed condition in the Mt. Moriah Recommended Wilderness Management Area is high. There are however, some areas with low ground cover values for vegetation and litter which experience overland flow of water in the spring. These sites occur on shallow soils with low soil productivity potentials. It is felt that the money required to reduce soil erosion on such sites is excessive compared to the benefits which could to be gained.

Riparian areas will be managed according to the Forest wide standards and guidelines. Existing allotment management plans will be updated to provide for proper riparian area management where needed as indicated in the Forest-wide Standards and Guidlines.

193-67 We feel the description is adequate and stand in the text as presented.

The amount of poor condition range within this management area is quite small in comparison with the total amount of suitable range. Small pockets of poor condition range exists on some allotments throughout the management area. Livestock grazing on these allotments is currently intensively managed to improve range condition.

Due to the absence of a riparian area inventory and condition classification, it is difficult to say what percentage of the riparian areas are in poor or good condition. There are very few areas identified as needing major improvement. Riparian areas will be managed according to the Forest-wide standards and guidelines. Existing allotment management plans will be updated to provide for proper riparian area management where needed such as indicated in the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

193-68 We feel that the Snake Management Area description is accurate and complete and remains as presented in the Draft Plan.

Please refer to response 193-22.

Wild horses - please refer to response 193-16.

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noted. We support the recommended wilderness and urge that the Highland Ridge area be added to the wilderness recommendation. 193-72

What is the Mt. Wheeler heliograph station (p. IV-340)? There are no trail activities listed in the Forest Action Schedule. What are they? We question the need to remove USGS high elevation precipitation gauges from wilderness. 193-73

Ward Mountain Management Area
The area description is fair. We support the management prescriptions, directions, standards, and guidelines, except as noted.

White Pine Management Area
The description of this area is minimal. Scenic and recreational values are greatly understated. Grazing management is largely inadequate and wildlife habitat is in poor condition. The "intensive" range management is not improving range condition and should be thoroughly reevaluated. Big hor sheep habitat requirements need much management attention. We support the management prescriptions, directions, standards, and guidelines, except as noted. 193-74

We support the Currant Mountain area for wilderness, the proposed Research Natural Area, more intensive wildlife habitat management, and reduced grazing pressure on riparian and critical wildlife habitat areas.

Quinn Management Area
The area description is good. We support the management prescriptions, directions, standards, and guidelines, except as noted. Grazing management must be improved. The vacant allotment should be reserved to improve big horn sheep habitat. Unless livestock grazing can be managed properly, the other livestock permits should be greatly reduced or else cancelled. 193-75

We support the Quinn Canyon area as wilderness and urge the Forest Service to designate a special big horn sheep management area to improve deteriorated habitat. 193-76

Grant Recommended Wilderness Management Area
The area description is fair. We support the management prescriptions, directions, standards, and guidelines, except as noted. We strongly support the wilderness recommendation. Stronger prescriptions and standards are needed to control poorly managed livestock. The vacant allotment should be reserved to improve big horn sheep habitat. A special big horn sheep management area should be designated in order to improve deteriorated habitat. 193-77

Santa Rosa Management Area
The area description is good, but more information on vegetation and geological characteristics should be added. The livestock overgrazing problem is understated. Some Sierra Club members believe the Santa Rosa is the worst overgrazed area in the 193-78

RESPONSES

193-69 The Baker Creek Road provides access to the Baker Creek Campground. This campground is a highly developed campground with flush toilets and hardened camp sites. There is also the Baker Creek Trailhead and an interpretive trail on the Baker Creek Road.

During the normal season of use, this road receives an average of 10 to 30 vehicles per day. The steep grade and volume of traffic cause the road to washboard. Normal maintenance has only a short term benefit to this condition. To resolve the problem we would have to realign the road to reduce the grades or pave the surface.

Visiting recreationists regularly complain about the rough condition of this road.

The Forest has reevaluated the paving of the Baker Creek Road and still believe it is in the public interest.

The Lexington Arch road is in poor condition. At present the use on this road is low receiving an estimated average of 2 to 3 vehicles per day. Reconstruction of this road will be evaluated and weighed along with the demand for reconstruction of other roads on the Forest road system.

In reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments several revisions have been made to the management emphasis levels placed on recreation. As a result several changes have been made in the Forest Action Plan concerning trail activities.

193-70 The area between the Shoshone Campground and Johnson Lake has been added to the wilderness recommendation and will be closed to motorized vehicles.

In reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, we have included the Big Wash road and headwaters in the wilderness recommendation. The Big Wash road has become totally impassable due to recent flooding.

We feel that signing the Pole Canyon road is adequate at this time to protect the bristlecone pines.

193-71 Laws are developed by legislative process. We do agree with the need for protection and have added a goal to the Forest Plan concerning bristlecone pine management.

193-72 In reviewing the area description for the Bristlecone Management Area we feel the description is adequate and remains in the text as presented.

In reference to the wilderness recommendation please see response 193-119 and Appendix C of the Final Plan.

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Humboldt NF. The actions in the proposed Plan appear inadequate to resolve grazing management problems. Directions and standards for range and riparian area management must be strengthened. For example, the guideline on riparian areas (p. IV-492) should be revised to state "Riparian areas shall be maintained or improved..." We support the wilderness recommendation. We support the management prescriptions, directions, standards, and guidelines, except as noted. 193-78

Forest Action Schedule
Trailhead and trail projects should be scheduled for the North and South Snakes, Quinn, Grant, and White Pine Ranges, Schell Creeks, and the Santa Rosas. Wildlife improvements should be scheduled for Quinn, Grant, White Pine and Schell Creek Ranges. The Sierra Club opposes all range improvements intended to increase livestock forage until all allotments in a management area reach satisfactory condition. More watershed improvement projects should be scheduled. 193-79

E. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

The explanation of the components of the monitoring plan is very good. Will the public be allowed to see the annual monitoring results? We request that the Humboldt NF produce a summary of the plan implementation for the public on an annual basis. Included in this annual "progress" report should be the following evaluations:

- if the Forest is achieving the goals and objectives of the Plan as predicted.
- if the standards and guidelines are being applied as specified.
- if the effects of implementation are as predicted.
- if the Forest's program and management are resolving the planning issues.
- if the cost of implementation of the planned work force needed is as predicted.

If the budget is falling short to fully implement the Plan, the public can then attempt to get appropriations increased. If funding cannot be increased, then the public should be able to participate in revising Forest priorities or in deciding which public services or Forest programs will be reduced. 193-80

Monitoring and Evaluation Program
What are "soil and water resource MMRs?" What are "established soil loss tolerance levels?" 193-81

Revision and Amendment
It is very important for the public to know if the Forest Plan is working. If it isn't, then full opportunities should be provided to the public to participate in Plan revisions and amendments. 193-82

193-73 The Wheeler Peak heliograph station is a site that was historically used for mirror signalling by the calvary in the 1800's and later for mapping purposes by the U.S.G.S.

In reference to trail activities in the Forest Plan please refer to response 193-69.

The Forest Plan has been revised to allow USGS high elevation precipitation gauges to remain within wilderness boundaries.

193-74 All allotments within the White Pine Management area are under deferred grazing systems. The effectiveness of these grazing systems in meeting management objectives is continually being evaluated. It is felt that some allotment management plans have not provided the anticipated results as and will be revised.

193-75 All allotments within the Quinn Management Area have allotment management plans providing direction for proper livestock mangement to improve range contition. Studies are currently being conducted to aid in determining proper stocking levels on two high priority allotments. Range improvements are being accomplished to promote better livestock distribution and to gain control of cattle movements. Once permitted use on these two allotments is adjusted to proper stocking levels then efforts will be aimed at improving other allotments with livestock management problems.

The vacant allotment will be managed for multiple use including big horn sheep.

193-76 Once the area's value for big horn sheep has been defined and the need established, the Forest will consider establishing a special management area. The area most likely will overlap portions of the Quinn Management Area.

193-77 Please refer to response number 193-76.

193-78 The Santa Rosa Ranger District experienced some serious resource abuse many years ago. However, range data and photographic histories show that range conditions on the Santa Rosa Management Area have improved dramatically in the last twenty years. Existing allotment management plans are working and are being revised to meet changing needs.

Spring runoff and flooding conditions in 1983 and 1984 severly damaged many stream channels and associated riparian habitats. This has drastically impacted some resource management plans and projects while Resource needs to accomodate this disaster are being assessed.

Geologic and vegetation descriptions have been strengthened in the text.

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III. COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The DEIS is not readily comprehensible to the average reader. The text is repetitive, both of statements in the proposed Plan and in the DEIS. Tables are full of numbers which have no obvious relation to the comparison of alternatives or the evaluation of the environmental consequences of their implementation. On the whole, the DEIS does not make reviewing the proposed Plan easier and adds to the general problem faced by the public in effectively participating in the Forest planning process. 193-83

In regard to the contents of the DEIS, we have several comments on shortcomings. The range of alternatives is poor. For many resources, values stayed the same for each alternative. For the resource values which did vary, the variation was not significant. 193-84

The range of alternatives is also deficient in that no alternative proposed revised boundaries of roadless areas in order to eliminate the majority of conflicts or manageability problems. Either a roadless area was recommended or not. Since many of the conflicts cited as partial justification for eliminating an area from wilderness recommendation could have been easily eliminated with a boundary adjustment, the lack of such an alternative is a serious deficiency of the DEIS.

Instead of a modified wilderness boundary alternative, the Forest Service dropped hundreds of thousands of acres from its roadless review and evaluation by claiming the acres had been "developed since 1978." (See Table C-1). No explanation or documentation of these massive developments is offered in either the DEIS or in Appendix C. No authority is cited which would permit the Forest Service to make whole-sale changes in the roadless area boundaries before completing its RARE. No warning is given in the DEIS that the full roadless area was not reviewed in the RARE process, since figures given in tables on wilderness use the entire acreage. This arbitrary action is a serious if not fatal deficiency of the DEIS. 193-85

Another major problem we found with the DEIS is that the Forest Service made a very weak case in justifying the elimination of 84% of the roadless areas from wilderness recommendation. Arguments about lack of wilderness quality, the extent of mineral or other conflicts, or the degree of support for wilderness or all three are not convincing, are based on no or superficial evidence, or are prejudicial against wilderness. Our intensive analysis of the Roadless Area Review & Evaluation on which the Forest Service based its wilderness decisions is contained in Appendix C. 193-86

RESPONSES

193-79 The action schedule depicts planned accomplishments for the next ten years in line with a tentative budget. Additional projects will be addressed in the next planning period.

Wildlife improvement projects have been scheduled for the Quinn, Grant, White Pine, Schell, and Santa Rosa Management Areas.

We agree that range improvement projects intended to improve rangeland conditions will have top priority for implementation.

The Forest lacks specific information pertaining to the what, when and where for watershed improvement projects. Inventories necessary to obtain the above mentioned information are included within the FEIS/Plan.

193-80 A summary of the Forest Plan's status will be prepared annually and made available to the public. Wording to this extent has been added to Chapter V.

193-81 Soil and water resource MMR's are the "Minimum Management Requirements"needed to insure long term soil productivity and sustained watershed condition.

Established soil tolerance levels are the upper limit of soil erosion rates which can occur before soil productivity declines. A value of 2 to 3 tons/ac/year was used as an average tolerance level for the Forest in development of the Plan.

193-82 Revisions will be made with full public input. Please refer to response number 193-80.

193-83 Encorporating the requirements of NEPA, NFMA, planning regulations, agency instructions, recent court rulings and planning issues into a single document for an entire National Forest was a formidable task. We have tried to make the EIS as understandable as possible. Realizing the complexity of the document we offered to meet with anyone to assist them in understanding the documents.

193-84 We feel that the range of alternatives is adequate within our established constraints. The range of alternatives was limited by a constrained spectrum of budget levels which was anticipated to be practical in the future. Additionally, the range of alternatives was constrained by legislative mandates, Forest Service regulations, and Regional policy.

193-85 We disagree with your statement that the Humboldt National Forest has inappropriately deleted large acreages of roadless areas from wilderness recommendation. In reevaluation of RARE II areas and the associated public comments, numerous boundary adjustments were made to either include additional acreage having wilderness character or to remove those portions that were developed and not compatible with wilderness values. In all cases, both the modified roadless area and the original roadless area were evaluated as separate entities in at least one alternative of the array.

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Our analysis of the RARE III descriptions presented in Appendix C for the Humboldt NF has revealed that the review is inadequate. While the descriptions are an improvement over earlier efforts, they do not provide site specific information about the RA evaluated. Information on intrusions is especially lacking in site specificity. The need for the area as wilderness is largely "boiler-plate" and does not meaningfully consider ecosystem variety nor does it consider the 50 year planning horizon which this planning effort is supposed to address. In addition, large sections of the roadless areas were deleted and did not receive an evaluation. No explanation or justification was presented for deleting over 200,000 acres from evaluation. 193-87

193-86 We disagree with your statement that the Humboldt National Forest has unjustifiably eliminated roadless areas from wilderness recommendation. In the Forest's DEIS nine alternatives, with varying management emphasis and a broad range of recommended wilderness acreage, were comparatively evaluated. We feel that the "Preferred Alternative," presented as the Humboldt National Forest's Plan, provides a mix of resource outputs, including wilderness, that best meets the overall needs of the public.

193-87 To comply with the new requirements of 36 CFR 219.17, each roadless area was specifically evaluated and discussed in Appendix C of each Forest Plan draft and final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Appendix C presents a precise discription and evaluation of each roadless area in order to satisfy 36 CFR 219.17 (a) (2) (i through v) as follows:

The value of the area as wilderness and its wilderness management feasibility are portrayed in the description of the area. A map and sections dealing with capability and availability also are included. The proximity of the area to other designated wilderness is addressed in a section on need. The contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System, anticipated long-term changes, and values forgone are displayed in a section on effects of wilderness/nonwilderness prescriptions.

Appendix C identifies direct and indirect impacts and potential environmental changes with or without wilderness designation and some mitigating measures.

The direct and indirect impacts and environmental consequences of wilderness or nonwilderness designation are also portrayed in Chapter III, Affected Environment, and Chapter IV, Environmental Consequences, of the Forest Plan FEIS.

Please note that rationale for boundary modifications has been strengthened and clarified throughout Appendix C.

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APPENDIX A: LIST OF REVIEWERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT

Greg Ebner, Sierra Club wilderness committee
Dennis Ghiglieri, Sierra Club wilderness committee
Roger Scholl, Sierra Club wilderness committee
Marjorie Sill, Toiyabe Chapter Chair
Rose Strickland, Sierra Club public lands committee chair

Many other Sierra Club volunteers over the last 20 years have contributed substantively to information on wilderness boundaries, wilderness resources, resource conflicts, and management requirements.

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APPENDIX B: REVIEW OF HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST APPENDIX C
ROADLESS AREA REVIEW AND EVALUATION (RARE)

Introduction

We have carefully reviewed Appendix C which contains the Humboldt National Forest Roadless Review and Evaluation (which we will refer to as RARE III) for 55 areas. This RARE is an improvement over the 1983 Roadless Area Evaluation Descriptions (1983 RAED) which we criticized extensively in our comments dated December 26, 1983. There are fewer opinions stated and there is an attempt to provide facts rather than "Forest Service (FS) conclusions". The most obvious errors have been removed. However, the Humboldt National Forest (HNF) has inappropriately deleted often large acreages from the roadless areas (RAs) and claimed that they were "developed since 1978". This problem and numerous others which we detail below render the document wholly unacceptable. 193-88

93-88 Please refer to response number 193-85.

Previous Public Comment on Roadless Areas

The earlier RAED was a disgrace and should never have been distributed to the public. There are references, however, to the "... 1983, updated map inventories and descriptions..." in each of the roadless area descriptions in Appendix C. We do not believe that conclusions regarding widespread public opinion can be drawn from those maps and descriptions. Many Nevadans and others from neighboring states vitally concerned with wilderness on public lands were NOT contacted during that process. The "document" which the FS produced and did NOT distribute widely served only as a hindrance to public involvement. We pointed out in our comments on the 1983 RAED: 193-89

> "These 55 RAEDs are not bound into a single document... No statement of purpose is offered to guide the reviewer; no explanation of which public law or administrative authority mandates such a review; no narrative of the wilderness history is offered; no overall page number system is given; no statewide map is provided; no index is offered to allow locating a particular RAED; no statement or chapter explains just what obligation the FS has regarding the comments of the reviewer."

193-89 We disagree with your contention that our public input process was inadequate in the Roadless Area reevaluation. Although it is not possible to personally contact every individual, the Forest did make an extensive effort to inform the public as well as to solicit their comments. This effort is described in Appendix A, pages A-6 to A-9.

We went on to explain in our 6 page comments the numerous deficiencies the 55 individual RAEDs contained. The entire document was filled with conclusions, prejudicial statements, and unquantified and unqualified remarks. The Sierra Club never received any response to its comments nor did the FS issue any revision to the flawed 1983 RAED. We can not determine now from looking at this document how our earlier comments were used to make changes. 193-90

193-90 We agree that there may be some confusion in the format and organization of Appendix C which subtract from it's usability. However, a reorganization such as you've suggested would be inordinately costly and time consuming and would not significantly add to the section's usefulness. We have added an index to provide easier access to the text.

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The FS gained little new information because the 1983 RAED process was was not designed to solicit substantial public response. The process mainly contacted people in rural Nevada communities who tend to be highly polarized against the word "wilderness".

Presumably, it is this disgraceful 1983 RAED which the FS bases the one paragraph of "boiler plate" language which appears in each of the RARE III descriptions. We suggest to the FS that they have never adequately solicited input from the public since RARE II--nearly 6 years ago. During that six years, Nevada has grown substantially. Further, neighboring states have also grown. Attitudes toward wilderness have changed and are changing as more and more NF land is lost to intensive uses such as mining and woodcutting and livestock "improvements". The HNF has seen tremendous surface disturbance from mining in the Independence Mountain Range in Elko County, for example.

It appears that the 1983 RAED is the underpinning of public comment which the FS, in part, bases its non-wilderness recommendations for the HNF. We request that this "information" not be considered because of the objections stated above and those specific problems identified in our 1983 response to the RAED. 193-90

Format and Organization

Appendix C is bound as a single document separate from the other appendicies which keeps it a manageable size. It also has a reasonably clear introduction with a list of each roadless area code, name, and acreages. Although the pages are numbered throughout, there is no index to quickly locate a roadless area by page number, however. 193-91

The worst organizational feature of Appendix C is that roadless areas are presented in "code" number order. These code numbers have absolutely no meaning for the public and seem more or less "randomly" generated. For example, we find the description of areas in the Santa Rosa Mountain Range separated from each other by a description of the East Humboldt Mountain Range, then the document goes back to the Santa Rosas. The description of Mt Wheeler (Bristlecone) occurs in the middle of the document and its contiguous neighbor, Highland Ridge, appears almost at the end. This scattering of roadless area descriptions without regard to which mountain range they belong to makes review difficult. 193-92

Occasionally, the descriptions do not contain the same "categories" of information. As we stated in our comments on the 1983 RAED, the reviewing public can not tell if information for a given area is not important, is missing, or can not be determined since the format varies slightly. For example, the FS gives the average annual precipitation in the Santa Rosas and omits it for 193-93

RESPONSES

193-91 We disagree with your statement that the 1983 RARE II reevaluation was prejudicial and biased. An extensive effort to solicit public comment from all social groups was carried out by the Forest in 1983. This effort is documented in Appendix A, pages A-6 to A-9. Further, we feel that the area descriptions are generally adequate in describing each of the roadless areas and remain in the text as presented.

Although we did not respond in writing to all comments received on the accuracy of the roadless area re-inventory, we considered them in preparation of the areas for Forest Planning analysis.

193-92 Please refer to statement 193-90.

193-93 Every effort was made to provide complete information for each roadless area. However, for some roadless areas information for certain categories was lacking but was not considered critical to the evaluation.

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the Schell Creeks. This is true for other areas, too. Overall, however, there is an attempt to provide complete information for each area. 193-93

Roadless Area Boundaries

The Roadless Area Boundaries used by the HNF are the single greatest failing of this RARE III. The FS has the no justification for two roadless areas being studied as 2 separate units. Additionally, and even more disturbing, are the Forest Service claims regarding deletions from RA acreages from unsubstantiated "development". We disagree strongly with the claim by the FS that 71,000 acres of the Jarbidge Additions have been "developed since 1978." 193-94

The RARE III is in error for Ruby Mtns North/Ruby Mtns South. The FS evaluates these contiguous areas separately. However, no discernable feature separates them. The FS shows a tiny 1/4 mile strip adjoining the North/South Ruby RAs. Actually, the SINGLE roadless area is approximately 3 and 1/2 linear miles wide from the Lamoille Canyon Parking Lot up and over the 10,000 foot crest and down to within 1/2 mile of the FS boundary on the low foothills of Thompson Creek. This is a severe error in mapping the roadless area and has resulted in the FS evaluating the N/S Ruby Mountain unfairly. There is only a single "Ruby Mountain" RA, and it should be recommended wilderness. 193-95

The FS has made a similar error for Wheeler Peak/Highland Ridge. Here, the RAs are shown separated by a "road" up Big Wash Canyon. However, this old mining track has been impassable for many years and is officially "washed out" about a mile and a half east of the scenic area boundary. Therefore, the "two" areas are actually a single area which is 6 miles wide from the 11,000 foot crest to the major fork in Big Wash "Creek". As with the Ruby Mountains, the FS should have studied these RAs as a SINGLE area. The combined Wheeler/Highland Ridge should have been recommended wilderness. 193-96

Unfortunately, the FS chose to reduce the size of the roadless areas without justification and to label these deletions developed since 1978. We object to this not only because the areas which we will mention have not been developed, but because it is an unwarranted attempt to permanently exclude roadless land from the roadless area inventory. The entire appendix is called into question because of this action by the HNF. 193-97

While it is appropriate for the FS to consider changing boundaries for the purpose of developing alternatives, it is deceptive to label these areas developed and then discuss them in the RARE III appendix with reduced acreages. In some cases this undoubtedly leads to faulty descriptions. 193-98

We support the adjustment of boundaries when an area is being considered for wilderness through the alternative process. In 193-99

193-94 Please refer to response numbers 193-131 through 193-134.

193-95 Please refer to response numbers 193-124 through 193-129.

193-96 Please refer to response numbers 193-119 and 193-120.

193-97 Please refer to response number 193-85.

193-98 Please refer to response number 193-85.

193-99 Please refer to response number 193-85.

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fact, we do not believe that the FS has used this tool adequately to develop a good range of alternatives which tend to minimize specific lands in a RA with conflicts. Had the FS done this, the preferred alternative would not have proposed such meager wilderness acreages.

193-100 The roadless area descriptions presented and the acreages published at the top of each RA description in bold face type are deceptive and prejudicial on the part of the HNF. We request that these "errors" be corrected and that the complete roadless area boundary acreages be published and included in the analysis.

HNF Unsupported Deletions from Selected RAs

Name	Acreage	Unsupported FS Deletion
Jarbidge (372)	95,900	71,035
Highland Ridge (391)	67,984	34,800
+ Wheeler Peak (359)	76,564	16,363
South Schell (355)	133,826	22,677
Mt Moriah (352)	98,975	17,232
Currant Mtn (Duckwater 839)	55,998	10,858
East Humboldt (226)	27,428	5,746
Ruby Mountains (227)	35,130	4,483
+ Ruby Mountains (367)	67,795	1,495
Totals	659,600	184,689

The FS has inappropriately deleted 28% of these 7 roadless areas.

Eliminating Conflicts

193-101 The RAs frequently dwell upon the "potential" for mineral development, the "potential" for timber harvest, and the "potential" for more intensive grazing management. Assuming that there actually is a conflict (even though the FS is never able to document it convincingly), the FS considers few boundary modifications to eliminate the conflicts. Generally, the FS selects what it considers to be the roadless area and then that area is either included as a recommended wilderness or it is released from all consideration. Different boundaries which would lessen the impact on the "potential" development possibilities are not analyzed.

We believe that the FS should consider a variety of boundaries for its roadless areas large enough to be configured in a variety of ways. This way, conflicts can be addressed while still preserving much of the pristine beauty of the HNF roadless areas in wilderness designation.

RESPONSES

193-100 Please refer to our responses for each roadless area and Appendix C in the Final Plan.

93-101 Both the original roadless area as well as the adjusted roadless area are evaluated in at least one alternative. To evaluate a multitude of boundary adjustments for each of 48 roadless areas as well as multiple combinations of roadless areas with various boundary adjustments would be a near impossible task and result in a document so complex it would be incomprehensible to the general public.

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Non-Wilderness Recommendations

The FS fails to provide evidence for releasing 84% of the RA acreage permanently to non-wilderness. The RARE III descriptions fail to provide quantified information regarding intrusions. Rarely is there information on mileages or site specific locations regarding jeep trails which are the most frequent man-made impact mentioned. For example, RAs are described with "standard language" such as that for the Santa Rosa area:

> "Many structural and non-structural improvements have been constructed for the management of livestock, i.e., fences, water troughs, roads, and areas of sagebrush removal. There are fourwheel drive type roads or "tracks" along many ridges and fence lines." (emphasis added)

193-102 Such statements are unquantified and unqualified. Without actual numbers and locations of these "improvements", we are basically faced with an opinion of the FS reviewer. Is one water development per canyon "many"? Are two "many"? Is 5 miles of fence intrusive? 10 miles? Is the jeep "track" faint? Is is used 2 times per year? 5 times? Is it substantially noticeable when one is on the track or from many miles away? Are intrusions likely to be on the edge of the area or in the center?

The FS avoids providing information in the RA descriptions to help delineate the extent of the intrusions to which the FS objects. The public is forced to accept the FS conclusion. In the case of the Santa Rosas, since it had few other conflicts, livestock abuses of the past seem to be used as justification to exclude the area from wilderness consideration.

RARE III Fails to Address Future.

Each RARE III description contains a section on "Need". The need paragraphs dwell on the past record of public involvement in which (as we earlier demonstrated), the Forest Service failed miserably in soliciting that comment. However, as poor a job as the FS has done in involving the public in the outstanding recreation lands of the Humboldt National Forest in the past, another failure of this RARE III is that is tells nothing about the future.

193-103 It is in the "need" section where we would expect to see FS population projections for the 5 state region -- California, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, and Utah -- through the year 2035. The 50 year planning horizon is missing in this evaluation. Where will the population of these leaders in growth be in the next 50 years? How will these roadless areas fare under "general forest" management? What will be the habitat loss? What will be the wilderness recreation loss? What will be the watershed loss? What will be the impact from increased recreation use of the designated areas? What is the expected visitation in recommended

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193-102 We disagree with your statement that the Humboldt National Forest has unjustifiably eliminated roadless areas from wilderness recommendation. In the Forest's DEIS nine alternatives, with varying management emphasis and a broad range of recommended wilderness acreage, were comparitively evaluated. We feel that the "Preferred Alternative," presented as the Humboldt National Forest's Plan, provides a mix of resource outputs, including wilderness, that best meets the overall needs of the public.

The intent of the descriptions were to characterize the overall nature of each of the roadless areas. We feel that this objective was accomplished in the descriptions. To inventory and quantify the large number of improvements and intrusions existing in all the roadless areas would have been an inordinately costly and time consuming task.

193-103 The intent of the "need" section of each roadless area was to assess the areas relative location to population centers which would utilize the area and to summaraize the degree of public interest for the area as indicated by the public comments on the RARE II reevaluation.

It is extremely difficult to quantify projected demands for a single roadless area when it will be recommended in combination with numerous others. In order to assess public demand for primitive type recreation, demand was projected on a Forest basis in the AMS section, as presented in Table II-15 on page II-34. This demand is projected through the year 2035. The demand will be reevaluated when the plan is revised.

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wilderness areas by 2035? How would that visitation be affected if more or fewer areas are recommended? We believe that the FS has produced a "boiler plate" needs section which provides no information. Some of the most heavily used wilderness areas are adjacent to each other; some are many miles apart. Some popular areas are small while others are quite large. Yet, this is the most significant information on which the FS seems to base wilderness recommendations. The FS fails to come to grips with the real issue related to wilderness recreation need -- future growth in regional populations, increased mobility and increasing public desire to visit less crowded, scenic areas.	193-103		
Ecosystem Representation The FS uses shallow and unscientific reasoning when it dismisses an area with non-site specific language such as that written for Mt. Moriah: "The Intermountain sagebrush/ponderosa pine ecosystem is common throughout Nevada, thus wilderness classification of the Mt. Moriah Roadless Area to protect this vegetation type is not needed." This statement is without justification. Is this "classification" system the only basis for this conclusion? Is there no more to the "ecosystem" than the vegetation type? What of the interaction between the plants AND animals? What of the fish habitat? What of migratory birds? What of the extent of the vegetation? What of relict tree, grass and brush species in non-grazed areas? What of the unique features such as table land at 11,000 feet? We request that the FS identify specific studies of the Moriah area which can be sited to support the conclusion that the Mt Moriah "ecosystem" (encompassing a heavily forested region from 6000 to 12,050 feet) is "common throughout Nevada". It appears, that this "broad-brush" land classification system is being used completely out of context of its purpose and, therefore, the FS conclusions regarding this "ecosystem type" are erroneous. We contend that the FS does not possess any data which adequately evaluates the value of specific ecosystems throughout the HNF.	193-104	193-104	"Ecosystem" is defined in the Plan's glossary as, "an interacting system of organisms considered together with their environment...." In line with this definition, all plants and animals, as well as the interaction between these organisms, is encompassed in the classification of a particular ecosystem. For identification purposes, the ecosystems are referred to in terms of their dominant vegetative type such as a sagebrush/ponderosa pine ecosystem. The value of a given ecosystem is determined, not by the fact that it may contain some unique salient feature, but rather by the ecosystems rarity within the planning area. We feel that our classifications and determinations concerning ecosystem representation are accurate and complete and remain in the text as presented.
Overall Evaluation After reading the RA descriptions, we are struck by the similarity between descriptions for areas of less than 15,000 acres to areas of 100,000 acres and more. There is essentially no more information presented for large areas than small ones. This is curious since the entire RARE III process was conducted BECAUSE the court determined that the FS RARE II process lacked site specificity. Yet, we find descriptions of areas which have 134,000 acres (Schell Creek, 04-355) fill 3 pages and	193-105	193-105	Please refer to response number 193-87.

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descriptions of areas with 12,400 acres (#A) also fill 3 pages. (Note here that we are using the actual Schell Creek roadless area boundary without the arbitrary deletions which the FS made.) Even a casual observer would expect that significantly more information would be required to evaluate an area which is 10 times as large. 193-105

Conclusion

We find that the RARE III descriptions presented in Appendix C for the HNF fail to meet the stated purpose. While they are an improvement over earlier efforts, they do not provide site specific information about the RA evaluated. Information on intrusions is especially lacking in site specificity. The need for the area as wilderness is largely "boiler plate" and does not meaningfully consider ecosystem variety nor does it consider the 50 year planning horizon which this planning effort is supposed to address.

This RARE like those before it (RARE II and I) does not identify the resource conflicts in context of the overall resource base of the NF. Instead, the reviewer is faced with capability sections which detail only the so-called development potential of a given RA while never addressing the existing, planned, and potential development on NF land outside of it. 193-106

Yet, it is these non-roadless lands which comprise much of the developable resource base of the HNF in most cases. While it is appropriate to provide information on the development "potential" of the roadless areas, it is incomplete without information regarding the land which is already developed to one extent or another. Thus, the treatment of RA development potential is basically biased and prejudicial. Ultimately, the public is asked to perform an evaluation of roadless areas and development conflict by performing a "comparison between one." A roadless area review must be accompanied by a non-roadless area review, too.

Area Comments

East Humboldt (#226)

The FS has inappropriately deleted 5,746 acres of land from this roadless area (as we have mentioned in our earlier comments) by claiming that they were "developed". These lands have not been developed. The desire of the FS to "trade out" of certain parcels of land due to alternate section ownership, does not justify the exclusion of NF roadless acreages from evaluation. Further, the "adjustment" of boundaries can only be considered for the evaluation of an area for wilderness, but must not reduce the actual size of the roadless area. 193-107

193-106 The intent of the descriptions was to characterize the overall nature of each of the roadless areas. We feel that this objective was accomplished in the descriptions. To inventory and quantify the large number of improvements and intrusions existing in all the roadless areas would have been an inordinately costly and time consuming task.

The intent of the "need" section of each roadless area was to assess the area's relative location to population centers which would utilize the area and to summarize the degree of public interest for the area as indicated by the public comments on the RARE II reevaluation.

It is extremely difficult to quantify projected demands for a single roadless area when it will be recommended in combination with numerous others. In order to assess public demand for primitive type recreation, demand was projected on a forest basis in the AMS section, as presented in Table II-15, Chapter II. This demand is projected through the year 2035.

The development potential of land outside this roadless areas has been addressed. In the DEIS nine alternatives were comparatively evaluated. These alternatives represent a wide range of wilderness outputs as well as varying management strategies applied to land outside the roadless areas. We feel this provides an adequate comparison of Forest-wide outputs with and without wilderness designation.

EAST HUMBOLDTS (#226)

193-107 Boundary adjustments were made on the East Humboldt Roadless Area for a variety of reasons. These are explained in Appendix C.

We feel that large amounts of potentially developable private land is not compatible with wilderness values. As such, boundary modifications were used for evaluation purposes to exclude these areas, as well as to add areas suitable for wilderness designation.

Both the original roadless area and the modified roadless area were evaluated in at least one alternative.

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The decision of the Humboldt National Forest not to recommend this area for wilderness in its preferred alternative is incomprehensible. According to the description in Appendix C, the "natural integrity and appearance of the area is very high" and "the opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation is very high." Furthermore, "the wildlife resource is considered exceptionally diverse," and there are "prime fishing streams." There are few conflicts since the mineral potential is low.

We urge the HNF to recommend as wilderness the East Humboldt roadless area, totaling 27,000 acres, as shown on the map in appendix C of our comments. The final Forest Plan should note the fact that this wilderness proposal was introduced September 12, 1985 in the US House of Representatives in H.R. 3304 cosponsored by Congressmen Seiberling, Darden, Kostmayer, and Weaver. 193-108

Pearl Peak (#228)

This extremely remote area south of the Ruby Mountains has certain unique values -- a healthy bristlecone pine stand, spectacular views of Ruby Lake, and Pearl Peak itself. The very isolation from the heavily used Rubies make it even wilder. There is no mining activity and only minimal use so the natural appearance and integrity is high. Contrary to the statement that it is too small for a wilderness, at least 23,000 acres is in roadless condition and could be included. Many of the well-known wilderness areas in the Wilderness System are far smaller than this. The wildlife resource in this area is extensive because of the undisturbed habitat. 193-109

We urge the HNF to recommend as wilderness the Pearl Peak roadless area, totaling 23,000 acres, as shown on the map in appendix C of our comments.

Santa Rosa (#229)

The Santa Rosas are an excellent example of an area which has been mismanaged by the Forest Service. Heavy overgrazing and unrestricted ORV use has been allowed to have a deleterious effect on the extremely important watershed, the source of water recharge for both the Quinn River Valley and Paradise Valley. To say the "extensive watershed damage occurred during the springs of 1983 and 1984" is to avoid the real issue. These floods would have had much less effect if the area had been properly managed in the first place. 193-110

Fortunately, the ruggedness of the high terrain, including several peaks over 9,000 feet, have insured that there is still a large area in wilderness condition. Wilderness status will help to protect the entire watershed by closing the area off to damaging ORV use. The Santa Rosa are actually an excellent primitive recreation resource for hiking, hunting, and fishing.

RESPONSES

193-108 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

PEARL PEAK (#228)

193-109 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

SANTA ROSA (#229)

193-110 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Santa Rosa Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of natural integrity due to the many improvements and intrusions and does not have numerous opportunities for solitude because of the surrounding agriculture areas and major highways. We do not recommend the Santa Rosa Roadless area for designation in the Humboldt's Final Plan. The narrative has been expanded to clarify this rationale.

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There are many opportunities to find solitude and to enjoy the "area's natural beauty."

We urge the HNF to recommend as wilderness the Santa Rosa roadless area, totaling 80,000 acres, as shown on the map in appendix C of our comments. The final Forest Plan should note the fact that this wilderness proposal was introduced September 12, 1985 in the US House of Representatives in H.R. 3304 cosponsored by Congressmen Seiberling, Darden, Kostmayer, and Weaver. 193-110

Mount Moriah (#352)

The list of trees is incomplete. See the comment for Schell Creeks. The Mt Moriah Table is at about 11,000 feet not 10,000 as stated on page C-64.

The Mt Moriah table is an outstanding alpine area with many interesting plant species. One of these is a small, low growing columbine plant which produces a large blossom of blue, purple, or yellow-white in July and August. These flowers grow profusely enough to carpet the 3 square mile table in soft blue which is striking. Since the table dries out in the summer, this profusion of color from a wet area plant is especially notable. Many other flowering plants grow together with the columbine to offer a scene of outstanding beauty.

The Mt Moriah Table creates a environment which may well be unique. It is disappointing that the FS dismisses out of hand the special qualities of this area as one of the reasons to recommend it for wilderness.

We urge the HNF to recommend as wilderness the Mt Moriah roadless area, totaling 88,000 acres, as shown on the map in appendix C of our comments. The final Forest Plan should note the fact that this wilderness proposal was introduced September 12, 1985 in the US House of Representatives in H.R. 3304 cosponsored by Congressmen Seiberling, Darden, Kostmayer, and Weaver. The plan analysis on Mt. Moriah should note also that Nevada Congressman Harry Reid has introduced HR 3302 which would designate 88,000 acres. 193-111

Schell Creeks

We cannot agree with opening paragraph description of the Schell Creeks. The RA states: 193-112

> "The unit's appearance is that of a mountain island surrounded by desert valleys."

The Schell, probably less than most Great Basin mountains, has this appearance. In fact, the highest portion of the range can

SIERRA CLUB

APPENDIX B-9

RESPONSES

MOUNT MORIAH

193-111 We agree that the Mount Moriah Roadless Area is of high quality and suitable for wilderness designation. It is recommended for wilderness designation in the Final Plan.

In reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comment the boundary for the roadless area was revised. These revisions are depicted in Appendix C of the Final Plan.

SCHELL CREEKS

193-112 We feel that the descriptions for both the South Schell and North Schell are complete and accurate. The list of trees has been revised.

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not be seen from the major highway in Steptoe Valley nor from Ely. From the east between Mt Moriah and the Schell the area appears as a lofty wall which is frequently snow capped. It looks more like the Sierra Nevada than an "island." The Schell Creek KRange from within is rugged and scenic and desert valleys can only be seen from the highest ridge line and then only to the east not west. With 12,000 foot Mt Moriah directly east and 13,000 foot Mt Wheeler slightly south east, the valley does not dominate the scene. The extensive lake in Spring Valley which has appeared lately gives even less impression of "desert" at all.

The list of trees is incomplete. There is no mention of Engleman Spruce which actually dominates much of the forest here. Also, Ponderosa Pine (despite the FS ecosystem classification) is missing from the list. There is also a rather gross omission of the extensive alpine tundra land which begins to appear as one nears 11,000 feet. Also, glacial troughs and moraines are not mentioned. 193-112

The FS claims on page C-87

> "Opportunities for solitude are only moderate becaue of the easy access to the area..."

We believe that this evaluation is in error and cannot possibly be justified. We remind the FS that this is a roadless area of 134,000 acres. Even with the "modifications" to 111,000 acres suggested in Appendix C (but never analyzed by the FS as an alternative) it would still be a large area in the National Wilderness Preservation System. With the extensive tree cover, rugged topography, and high elevation, there is little doubt that the area offers incomparable solitude. 193-113

While the FS can, and often should, suggest and analyze boundary modifications in a total roadless area in order to lessen conflicts for a wilderness proposal, this cannot be done to arbitrarily reduce the total roadless areas size (in this case from 134,000 to 111,000 acres). Actual physical modification of land is the only reason to decrease the size of an inventoried roadless area. The South Schell RA description should list the total size as 134,000 acres. 193-114

Among the special features the FS should list is the Schell Creeks' exceptional size. Also, the ease of access is quite unusual for the Great Basin and is certainly an attractive feature for wilderness recreationists. 193-115

The FS dutifully mentions on page C-88 a terse "history" of public involvement. However, we find, although we remember explicitly commenting in support of the Schell Creeks as wilderness and speaking with the FS numerous times about this outstanding area, no support for the Schell Creeks is mentioned. 193-116

"During the RARE II process, local public sentiment favored

RESPONSES

193-113 The South Schell and North Schell Roadless Areas are separated by the Kalamazoo Road. Because this road runs accross the entire range it is not practical to "cherry stem" it and make one roadless area. We feel that the statements concerning natural integrity and opportunities for solitude for both roadless areas are accurate and complete.

The original roadless area acreage of 133,706 was evaluated in Alternative J. The modified area of 111,029 acres was evaluated in Alternatives A and C.

193-114 Boundary modifications were made on both the South Schell and North Schell Roadless Areas. Specific rationale for these modfications is listed in the narratives for each area.

193-115 We agree. These features are noted in the capability section of the South Schell narrative.

193-116 Please note that the narrative for the North Schell contains a statement that acknowledges non-local support for wilderness designation. A similar statement has been added to the South Schell narrative.

COMMENTS

[illegible] 193

non-wilderness classification ... 1983 [RAED] analysis showed no discernible shifts in attitude and opinions..."

We believe that this error highlights the incompleteness and uselessness of the "need" analysis which the FS presents in RARE III. Obviously the error should be corrected, but we believe that a simple correction is not enough. The "need" analysis is shallow and cannot be used to justify any non-wilderness recommendation. 193-116

There are few conflicts in the Schell Creeks with some exceptions in the southern portion. We believe that the entire west side exclusion is not a viable alternative and would not support all of it since there are few, if any, conflicts in this area. Further, the Schell is a large range which has tremendous opportunities for ORV use and mineral development outside the roadless area. The FS fails to mention that these types of opportunities are actually better outside the roadless area. 193-117

We urge the HNF to recommend as wilderness the Schell Creek roadless area, totaling 120,000 acres, as shown on the map in appendix C of our comments. The final Forest Plan should note the fact that this wilderness proposal was introduced September 12, 1985 in the US House of Representatives in H.R. 3304 cosponsored by Congressmen Seiberling, Darden, Kostmayer, and Weaver. 193-118

Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone #359) and Highland Ridge (#391)

The FS has inappropriately deleted 16,353 acres (359) and 34,800 acres (391) from this single roadless area but studied as two areas. (See earlier comments) The claim that these deleted acres have been "developed" since 1978 is not true. It is inappropriate for the FS to reduce a roadless area for the purpose of evaluation. The FS may change the boundaries of an area only in the development of a wilderness alternative.

The 60,000 acres FS wilderness recommendation for Wheeler Peak in the preferred alternative is totally inadequate for this magnificent wilderness resource. It includes only two-thirds of the national scenic area and artifically separates the Wheeler Peak roadless area from the Highland Ridge Roadless area by a "road" which no longer exists. (The description of Wheeler Peak appears on pages 113-117 of Appendix C and Highland Ridge on pages 330-332. Hopefully, the 200 page separation is not a deliberate attempt to confuse the public.) The fact is that both areas should have been studied as one because they are one. 193-119

In 1965 a 150,000 acre Great Basin National Park was recommended in the South Snake Range by Senators Bible and Canon, and many citizens believe that the entire area is of national park status. Among the exceptionally fine resources are Wheeler Peak, second highest point in Nevada, extensive forests of bristlecone pine on both Wheeler and Mount Washinton, the only glacier between the

RESPONSES

193-117 The western boundary of the South Schell Roadless area was modified to exclude areas that have been traditionally heavily used by commercial woodcutters and pine nut gatherers. Further, these areas contain numerous structural and non-structural range improvements which were considered to be incompatible with wilderness designation. The South Schell narrative has been revised to more clearly reflect this rationale.

193-118 We have not recommended the South Schell or North Schell Roadless Areas for wilderness designation due to the high mineral potential inherent in both areas.

WHEELER PEAK AND HIGHLAND RIDGE

193-119 In reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, several significant revisions have been made on both the Wheeler Peak (#359) and the Highland Ridge (#391) areas. These modifications are depicted in Appendix C of the Final Plan.

The Wheeler Peak Roadless Area will hereafter be referred to as the Bristlecone Recommended Wilderness Area.

193 CONT. COMMENTS

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Rockies and the Sierra, Lexington Arch, numerous caves, lush riparian areas with trout streams, and extremely diverse vegetation and wildlife. The opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude throughout this entire area are outstanding, and the scenery is indescribably beautiful. 193-119

A deteriorating jeep track which goes from the Snake Creek Campground to Johnson Lake should be closed, rehabilitated, and made a part of the inventoried roadless area and recommended wilderness. This trail causes damage to the fragile upper canyon resource by crossing meadows and springs. It is infrequently traveled. The FS tried to block this road some years ago at a logical location just before it crosses the most fragile land. However, the gate was subsequently destroyed. This act of vandalism is no reason to claim this area should not be part of the recommended wilderness. The FS has long recognized the importance of protecting this area. Many hikers and backpackers use Snake Creek as a trail head. Undoubtedly, a new trail should be constructed in Snake Creek which avoids the old "track". 193-120

We urge the HNF to recommend as wilderness the entire South Snake and Highland Ridge roadless area, totalling 120,000 acres, as shown on the map in appendix C of our comments. The final Forest Plan should note the fact that this wilderness proposal was introduced September 12, 1985 in the US House of Representatives in H.R. 3304 cosponsored by Congressmen Seiberling, Darden, Kostmayer, and Weaver. The plan analysis on the South Snake and Highland Ridge should note also that Nevada Congressman Harry Reid has introduced H.R. 3302 which would designate 120,000 acres.

Quinn Canyon (#360)

In RARE II the Quinn was recommended for wilderness by the HNF. Nothing has occurred in the area since then that should alter this recommendation. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are rated as high, and public input has favored wilderness classification for this area. It is highly scenic with soaring rock cliffs juxtaposed with deep canyons and several peaks over 9,000 feet. Because of the predominantly volcanic rock, surface water abounds in the lush canyons, available for both wildlife and primitive recreationists. There are only 247 acres of private land in the area. 193-121

The actual economic potential for mineral development is low, in spite of the presence of such non-strategic minerals as gold, mercury, molybdenum, and uranium. The wilderness values far outweigh the mineral values in this case. 193-122

We urge the HNF to recommend as wilderness the entire Quinn Canyon roadless area, totaling 95,000 acres, as shown on the map in appendix C of our comments. The final Forest Plan should note the fact that this wilderness proposal was introduced September 12, 1985 in the US House of Representatives in H.R. 193-123

RESPONSES

193-120 We agree, and have revised the boundary for the Wheeler Peak (#359) Roadless Area to incorporate the area between the Shoshone Campground and Johnson Lake.

QUINN CANYON (#360)

193-121 Please note that opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are high for this area and have been stated as such in the narrative.

193-122 We disagree with your contention that mineral potential is low. The USGS has identified the area as having a high potential for fluorspar, gold, silver, mercury, and molybdenum. Uranium and lead also occur in the area.

193-123 The Quinn (#360) Roadless area has not been recommended for wilderness designation due to the high potential for mineral development throughout the area.

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3304 Cosponsored by Congressmen Seiberling, Darden, Kostmayer, and Weaver.

Ruby Mountains (#3-227 & 4-367)

193-124 The RA evaluation should have considered the Ruby Mountain as a single area. The dividing line chosen by the FS is purely artificial and cannot be justified. The RA boundary does not include all of the roadless land. The RA description and map is further in error by not including the headwaters of Thompson Creek on the east side in the "north" Ruby. Again, the deletion of roadless land in the "north" Ruby Mtns in the 3 forks of Cold Creek, because the FS would like to exchange land there, is inappropriate. These lands are part of the roadless area now and should be evaluated. The plan should address land exchanges which are both pending and proposed as to their long term public value. It is prejudicial to assume that this land exchange must be finalized, despite the outcome of this planning effort.

193-125 The management prescription for the "north" Rubys is completely inappropriate. The statement that "ORV use will increase" and diminish the wilderness characteristics of the area, is a shocking admission that the FS has no intention of protecting the values of the area. Such statements occur frequently throughout appendix C.

193-126 In the "south" Ruby, the roadless area boundary is incomplete. The extensive deletion in Long and Segunda Canyons is in error. The FS has not provided any justification for the deletion in these areas. Our best information on the area is that the so-called "road" is now and has been completely impassable for years. We request the FS to fully document the RA boundary in this area.

193-127 The RA boundary also excludes Lamoille Lake and Island Lake on the upper end of Lamoille Canyon. This is an error which should be corrected. The actual roadless area is adjacent to the Lamoille Canyon road. We request that the FS provide documentation to substantiate this deletion from the RA. The Kleckner and Furlong Creek "deletions" which are mentioned in the descriptions on C-178 are actually shown as additions on the map on page C-177. We believe that the deletions are inappropriate and cannot be supported. The lower drainages to these canyons are absolutely spectacular and completely undeveloped. They provide a rapid transition to the foothill country for the hiker or horse packer. The fishing is outstanding as is the hunting.

It is a mistake to eliminate lands which are of outstanding wilderness quality AND provide good opportunities for hiking, backpacking, and sightseeing close to trail heads (or potential trail heads). Mention is made in the RA that the lower Kleckner

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APPENDIX B-13

RESPONSES

RUBY MOUNTAINS

193-124 We agree that the division of Ruby Mountain Roadless Area into two distinct areas was in error. The two areas have been analyzed as one for the Final Plan and are referred to as the Ruby Mountain Roadless Area.

We feel that the boundary adjustment which excludes land in the Cold Creeks is justified and appropriate. The pending land exchange involves lands that have been determined to be exchangeable and potentially developable. We feel that this is in conflict with wilderness designation and as such the area has been excluded from any recommendations.

We feel that the Roadless Area boundary in the area of Thompson Creek is correct. It lies on a well defined and manageable natural boundary. Furthermore, it does encompass a large portion of high quality lands in the head of Thompson Creek.

193-125 In reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, several revisions have been made on the Roadless Area boundary and our wilderness recommendation. These modifications are depicted in Appendix C of the Final Plan.

193-126 Although the road in Long Canyon is currently impassable there is a possibility of it being reopened to facilitate access to the American Beauty mine. Additionally, the Long Canyon and Segunda drainages are used heavily by Ruby Mountain Heliski as a winter sports area.

193-127 Lamoille Lake and Island Lake lie within an area heavily influenced by the developed nature of Lamoille Canyon and are not suitable for wilderness designation.

The references to the "deletions" in Kleckner and Furlong Creek were in error. They are actually "additions" as indicated on the map in Appendix C. A small adjustment was made in Echo Canyon to exclude a water transmission ditch currently in place.

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193-127 and Furlong Canyon areas were eliminated based upon public comment. What public comment? What is the documentation provided? How did the FS weigh the comment? Who provided the comment? The RA description is woefully lacking in explanation for decisions which were made by the FS during the "public involvement" phase. Our observations of lower Echo, Furlong, and Kleckner Creeks show no man-made intrusions to warrant the elimination.

193-128 There is an interesting statement on page C-179 which reads

> "The 3130-10 and 3130-21 ecosystems are not unique to this area and probably are not needed to assure future representation."

We dispute the claim that the Ruby Mountains do not represent a unique ecosystem as we have detailed in our comments above, but what is meant by "3130-10" and "3130-21"? If this is an example of FS documentation to aid in public understanding of the plan, it is not working.

193-129 We urge the HNF to recommend as wilderness the entire Ruby Mountains roadless area, totaling 143,000 acres, as shown on the map in appendix C of our comments. The final Forest Plan should note the fact that this wilderness proposal was introduced September 12, 1985 in the US House of Representatives in H.R. 3304 cosponsored by Congressmen Seiberling, Darden, Kostmayer, and Weaver. The plan analysis on the Ruby Mountains should note also that Nevada Congressman Harry Reid has introduced H.R. 3302 which would designate 74,000 acres including most of the northern Rubies.

Grant Range

193-130 The FS has made significant deletions to the roadless area for the Grant Range. However, the RA does not explain what these were for. We request complete documentation to justify the deletions of many thousands of acres of roadless land. We object to the deletion of the lower mile and a half of Troy canyon and surrounding areas. The deletion north of Scofield Canyon is completely unjustified since the wedge shown on the map is actually a rugged and high ridge with a cliff on the north side. Likewise deletions between Scofield and Rimrock are without merit. The cherry stem shown up the S Fork of Troy should be added back to the RA. The "road" was completely devastated and is now a 10 foot deep wash from top to bottom, completely impassable to any vehicle.

We urge the HNF to recommend as wilderness the Grant Range roadless area, totaling 60,000 acres, as shown on the map in appendix C of our comments. The final Forest Plan should note the fact that this wilderness proposal was introduced September 12, 1985 in the US House of Representatives in H.R. 3304 cosponsored by Congressmen Seiberling, Darden, Kostmayer, and

RESPONSES

193-128 We feel that our classifications and determinations concerning ecosystem representation are accurate and complete in regards to the Ruby Mountain Roadless Area and remain as stated in the Final Plan.

As explained in both Ruby Mountain narratives, the numbers 3130-10 and 3130-21 refer to the sagebrush-western ponderosa forest and juniper-pinyon woodlands ecosystems, respectively.

193-129 In reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, several revisions have been made on the roadless area boundary and our wilderness recommendation. These modifications are depicted in Appendix C of the Final Plan.

GRANT RANGE

193-130 Boundary adjustments were made to exclude areas that were determined to be mineralized and that had existing roads.

Troy Canyon was excluded due to the presence of a road, current mining claims, and the strong possibility of further development. The area adjacent to Troy Canyon was excluded due to high mineral potential and numerous mining claim spur roads existing in that area.

The east flank of the range, including that portion between Scofield Canyon and Rimrock Canyon, was excluded because it has moderate potential for oil and gas development. References in support of this conclusion include:

> Sandberg, Charles A., (1983), "Petroleum Potential of Wilderness Lands in Nevada," U.S. Geological Survey Circular 902-H.
>
> Cebull, Stanley E., (1967), "Bedrock Geology of the Southern Grant Range, Nye County Nevada," unpublished PhD. dissertation, University of Washington.

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Weaver.

Jarbidge Additions (#372)

193-131 The deletion of 71,035 acres from the roadless area is totally inappropriate. This land is not developed as claimed by the FS. The FS cannot make boundary adjustments for the purpose of evaluating the roadless area, but only for studying different wilderness alternatives. The RARE III improperly reduces the RA acreage.

193-132 It is extremely important that the FS add an adequate amount of land to the present Jarbidge wilderness -- at this time the only designated wilderness in the state of Nevada. Not only should the Fox Creek, Pine Creek, and Cottonwood Creek drainages be included but also Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and the country west of the Mary's River. To eliminate Camp Creek because of potential exploitation of a known, but extremely small, barite deposit makes no sense. Evidently, this activity is not economically feasible, since road access would be prohibitively expensive. There is no justification to change the roadless boundary since no development has taken place.

193-133 The "uncontrolled" ORV use in the southern portion of the inventoried roadless area is also not a good reason for lopping off this portion of the area. Harvesting of woodland products should not be used as a reason for eliminating portions of the area from consideration for wilderness since there is ample opportunity to cut wood elsewhere in this portion of the HNF.

193-134 We urge the HNF to recommend as wilderness the Jarbidge Additions roadless area, totaling 54,000 acres, as shown on the map in appendix C of our comments. The final Forest Plan should note the fact that this wilderness proposal was introduced September 12, 1985 in the US House of Representatives in H.R. 3304 cosponsored by Congressmen Seiberling, Darden, Kostmayer, and Weaver. The plan analysis for the Jarbidge Additions should also note that Nevada Congressman Harry Reid has introducted HR 3302 which would designate 54,000 acres. Also, Nevada Congressman Barbara Vucanovich, Senators Laxalt and Hecht have introduced legislation which would designate 24,000 acres.

Elk Mountain

193-136 Approximately 12,500 acres of Elk Mountain should be recommended for wilderness in the preferred alternative by the FS because of its overwhelming wildlife potential -- a potential that is demonstrated by the predominant recreational uses of big-game hunting and upland game bird hunting. At present the grazing level seems to be unusually high -- 1800 AUMs for cattle and 5000

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APPENDIX B-15

RESPONSES

JARBIDGE ADDITIONS (#372)

193-131 We disagree with your statement that we have inappropriately deleted large acreages of roadless areas from wilderness recommendation. In reevaluation of RARE II areas and the associated public comments, numerous boundary adjustments were made to either include additional acreage having wilderness character or to remove those portions that were developed and not compatible with wilderness values. In all cases, both the modified roadless area and the original roadless area were evaluated as separate entities in at least one alternative of the array.

193-132 In reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, areas around Camp Creek and Canyon Creek have been added to the wilderness recommendation. No changes have been made to the boundary west of Mary's River. It lies on a well defined manageable natural boundary and effectively excludes areas with numerous structural range improvements.

193-133 The southern boundary was adjusted to exclude areas having frequent ORV use and numerous structural improvements.

193-134 In reviewing the Draft Plan and associated public comments, several revisions have been made on the Jarbidge Additions. These modifications are depicted in Appendix C of the Final Plan.

ELK MOUNTAIN

193-135 We agree that the Elk Mountain area has exceptional wildlife potential and associated recreational uses. However, we do not feel that non-wilderness designation precludes developing this potential and meeting the needs of recreational users.

We disagree that wildlife and domestic livestock values are necessarily in direct competition. We do, however, recognize that in many circumstances there may be a degree of trade-off between wildlife and livestock values. These trade-offs are analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Plan. Information pertinent to the Elk Mountain RA can be found in Appendix C of the Plan, Table C. Additionally, prior to any action being implemented on the Forest a site specific environmental assessment is prepared which evaluates the trade-offs between all components including wildlife and livestock. We feel that these two levels of analysis will be adequate in ensuring that the proper level of management emphasis is placed on the most valuable components.

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193-135 AUMs for sheep. A study should be conducted of the two competing uses -- wildlife and livestock -- and their real value in terms of the land resource.

The FS states on page C-227

> "Firewood is being gathered from the patches of aspen at an increasing rate. These stands have potential for more productivity if put under more intensive management"

We believe that this raises several questions which the FS fails to address in any of its RA descriptions.

193-136 If firewood is being gathered in the area, under what authority is this being done? Are these aspen which are being "cut" within a FS designated cutting area? How many people drive to this area (65 miles north of Wells) just to cut aspen for firewood? are the woodcutters primarily? Commercial woodcutters? Are there no other locations on BLM or FS land which are designated wood cutting areas which are closer to communities?

Assuming that these cutting areas are authorized by the FS and the cutting is not illegal, why is cutting proceeding within a roadless area?

We are aware of serious budget constraints upon the FS at this time and possibly in the future as well. Given that the FS will have to concentrate its efforts on the most beneficial programs to the widest number of forest users, is it wise to be talking about "more intensive management" for these extremely remote and admittedly "few patches" of aspen? We believe that many of the FS objections to continued roadless status for these areas are largely hypothetical. There will likely be NO opportunity for the FS put these areas under "intensive management." Yet, the possibility for "intensive mangement" is raised WITHOUT adequate qualification. The FS owes it to the reviewing pubic to present some estimation of the reasonableness of the "alternative" management which it suggests is in conflict with wilderness management. 193-137

Although we have used Elk Mountain as an example of this kind of lack of qualification, nearly every RA presented contains some similar phrase. It sometimes deals with timber, other times with grazing "management", or even with wildlife management. These management conflicts must be adequately quantified and qualified before the RAs have any meaning for the reviewing public.

193-138 We urge the HNF to recommend as wilderness the Elk Mountain roadless area, totaling 12,400 acres. The final Forest Plan should note the fact that this wilderness proposal was introduced September 12, 1985 in the US House of Representatives in H.R. 3304 cosponsored by Congressmen Seiberling, Darden, Kostmayer, and Weaver.

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RESPONSES

193-136 The area is part of the district fuelwood cutting area and there is increasing use from the Twin Fall and Buhl areas. The use is mostly for personal use and will continue to increase as the wood on the Sautooth National Forest south of Twin Falls becomes more scarce. This is allowed when woodcutters use existing roads and remove dead material which does not effect wilderness characteristics of the roadless area.

193-137 In our evaluation we needed to identify those resource areas that have increased potential under a more intensive level of management. Although we realize that this may not be possible under current budgets: this potential needs to be identified to properly evaluate the various trade-offs.

193-138 The Elk Mountain Roadless Area is not recommended for wilderness designation due to the numerous roads, vegetation manipulation projects, and structural range improvements which detract from the area's natural integrity.

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Currant Mountain (Duckwater #4-839)

The continued use of the name "Duckwater" to refer to the Currant Mountain area is prejudicial. Most people whom we are aware of use the name "Currant Mountain" because it is the most spectacular feature of the range and is 300+ feet higher than Duckwater Peak. At the very least, given our input on this naming of the area, the FS could have named it Currant/Duckwater. 193-139

We disagree with the deletion of the 2 mile strip of forest land on the western portion of the RA given the information presented in the RA. If there is significant pinyon nut harvesting in this area, isn't it more likely to be conducted around access points which are already excluded? The FS does not present any information which would justify excluding 9,000 acres for pinyon nut harvesting. How many acres of pinyon pine are required for harvest for the Duckwater Tribe? Are there not thousands of acres of pinyon pine outside the NF and closer to the Reservation? Are all these pinyon pine harvested with vehicular access required to every tree? Isn't a corridor sufficient? 193-140

Actually, we find the entire pinyon tree "exclusion" absurd in light of paragraph 7 which appears on page C-352. The last sentence states

> "There is some potential to increase livestock forage through type conversions in pinyon-juniper and mountain big sagebrush types."

On one hand, the FS claims that we can't have wilderness on the western edge of the Currant Mountain area because of "heavy use during the pinenut gathering season". Yet, the FS proposes to eliminate pinyon-juniper to increase livestock forage. 193-141

These seemingly contradictory statements arise because the FS refuses to quantify and qualify its statements regarding conflicts and is arbitrary and capricious is eliminating areas from wilderness consideration.

Undoubtedly the past grazing in the area has had an impact. However, the natural integrity of the RA is extremely high despite them. The FS comment on page C-352

> "...natural integrity and appearance of the area are rated as moderate due to past grazing impacts and mineral exploration."

is not supported by the description. Our observations are that mineral exploration impacts are mostly in canyons and in the southern portion. The RA boundary largely excludes them and could probably be slightly modified to remove the visual intrusions. There is no real conflict, since presently, there are no mining claims whatsoever. Past grazing has impacted the extreme boundary of the area, but the majority of the interior does not display grazing impacts which would result in a lowering 193-142

RESPONSES

CURRANT MOUNTAIN (DUCKWATER #4-839)

193-139 We feel "Duckwater" adequately identifies the area.

193-140 This area is a historical pine nut gathering area by the Duckwater Indian tribe. A restriction of these areas would be an infringement on their historical use of this area.

193-141 The potential for type conversion of pinyon-juniper and big sagebrush types is not in the historical pinenut gathering area.

193-142 We feel that the description of the area is adequate and remains in the text as presented.

193 CONT. COMMENTS

OCT 2 1985

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of its natural integrity and appearance. In part this is due to a nearly complete lack of water within the roadless boundary.

What is missing in the mundane description the FS provides is that Currant Mountain is absolutely outstanding. From practically anywhere on the east side of the RA the visitor is confronted by nearly vertical slabs of limestone cliff. Overhanging outcrops, ridge spires, knife-like ledges, and extensive forests of mixed fir and pine. There are interior waterfalls until late in the year from melting snow which piles deep in the crevasses. From ridges one can frequently hear a roaring "stream" which flows a ways and is then lost into the porous limestone.

We are disheartened by the lack of specificity of the FS in evaluating the resource. The descriptions seem to lack any real knowledge of the area. The description reads as if the writer merely rode around the area in a car from the highway. 193-142

> "...steep bare ridge juts sharply out of the lower rolling hills and can be seen for many miles to the west. The distinct cone shape of White Pine Peak at the south end of the unit also can be seen."

Actually the view from the west is not the most spectacular view. From White River campground on the east side, Currant Mountain, with its brilliantly white limestone, is practically sheer for 2,000 feet to the summit!

We urge the HNF to recommend as wilderness the Currant Mountain roadless area, totaling 49,000 acres, as shown on the map in appendix C of our comments. The final Forest Plan should note the fact that this wilderness proposal was introduced September 12, 1985 in the US House of Representatives in H.R. 3304 cosponsored by Congressmen Seiberling, Darden, Kostmayer, and Weaver. 193-143

RESPONSES

193-143 This area is not recommended for wilderness because of its moderate to high potential for mineral development. Additionally, the area has been determined to have only a moderate degree of natural integrity due to past impacts resulting from grazing and mineral exploration.

193 A

SIERRA CLUB
Toiyabe Chapter – Nevada and Eastern California

October 6, 1985

B. J. Graves, Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mt. City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

Because of an oversight on our part, a correction regarding mining claims in the Quinn Canyon Roadless Area was not included in our comments on the Humboldt Draft Management Plan and EIS dated September 30, 1985. We are asking that the following paragraph be added to our site-specific comments on wilderness

According to Appendix C of the Draft EIS, there are 900 mining claims in the Quinn Canyon Roadless Area. This figure is in error since most of these claims have been abandoned. At the present time there are only slightly more than one hundred claims, most of which are located near the northwest border of the roadless area. A simple adjustment of boundaries would eliminate most of these claims. Our map delineates a boundary that would have this effect and enable the majority of the Quinn Canyon Roadless Area to be recommended for wilderness without major conflicts.

Thank you for your consideration in allowing us to insert this paragraph.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Sill

Marjorie Sill
Toiyabe Chapter Chair

OCT 8 '85

193A-1 **We did not change our reference to 900 mining claims being located within the Quinn Canyon Roadless Area. The number of mining claims located on a given area may not be a reflection of the area's mineral potential. Based upon preliminary USGS mineral surveys the Quinn Canyon Roadless Area is highly mineralised. The mineralization within the roadless area is widespread, foreclosing any options for boundary adjustments. The area was not recommended for wilderness within the Final EIS/Plan due to potentially major mining and/or mineral exploration conflicts.**

194 COMMENTS

RESPONSES

OCT 3 1985

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EXXON COMPANY, U.S.A.
POST OFFICE BOX 120 • DENVER, COLORADO 80201-0120

EXPLORATION DEPARTMENT
WESTERN DIVISION

[illegible]
[illegible]

September 30, 1985

Mr. B. J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

Exxon Company, U.S.A. welcomes this opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Forest Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Humboldt National Forest. Exxon is strongly interested in the planning process for federal public lands because many of these lands have significant potential for hardrock mineral and hydrocarbon discovery and production.

Exxon Company has examined the Draft Plan for its range of alternatives and its treatment of minerals, especially oil and gas. We found it encouraging that the Forest Service recognizes the significance of hardrock minerals to the economy of Nevada. More importantly, the plan provides for future exploration opportunities. On the other hand, and in our opinion, we believe that the oil and gas potential for certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest have been underestimated. This is very significant because the preferred alternative recommends some of these areas for wilderness designation.

194-1
thru
194-3

For example, lands in the Grant Range, Mt. Moriah, and Mt. Wheeler areas have been rated as having low potential for oil and gas by the Forest Service but their supporting criteria is not presented for review in the planning documents. Conversely, the U. S. Geological Survey's assessments as published in Circular 902-H, "Petroleum Potential of Wilderness Lands in the Western United States" rate the same areas as having moderate hydrocarbon potential based on the presence of extensive Paleozoic source rocks throughout eastern Nevada. The U. S. Geological Survey also believes that reservoir rocks and traps are broadly distributed throughout Nevada because of its complex structural history in many rock types. Unfortunately, at the present time, there is simply not enough geological information about these areas to say for sure where resources may be present in the subsurface but enough is known to say that these lands do indeed have definite oil and gas potential.

194-1 Please refer to response number 2-1.

194-2 Please refer to response numberr 2-2.

194-3 Please refer to response number 2-2.

OCT 2

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Mr. B. J. Graves 2 September 30, 1985

Because the specific areas named above and other lands on the Humboldt National Forest are under consideration for wilderness withdrawal, we believe it is important for the Forest Service to re-evaluate and incorporate all available leasable mineral information for these areas in its decision-making for wilderness.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and your consideration of our views. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Fernando Blackgoat at (303) 789-7488 if you have questions or need further assistance.

Sincerely,

H. W. Praetorius

FB:mma

c - J. S. Tixier, Regional Forester, Ogden, UT
E. F. Spang, Nevada State BLM Director, Reno, NV

OCT 3 1985

195 **COMMENTS**

September 30, 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada, 89801

Dear Mr. Graves,

I would like to make a few comments regarding the Draft Forest Management Plan for the Humboldt National Forest:

I was very pleased to find your recommendation of wilderness designation for Mt. Moriah, Wheeler Peak, the Ruby Mountains, Grant Range, and Jarbidge Additions. However, in many cases the acreages recommended for wilderness ~~is~~ insufficient, and numerous truly spectacular and deserving ~~area~~ roadless areas were not recommended. Specifically, I urge you to include the following areas and acreage as wilderness in the final Forest Plan: 195-1

1) Quinn Canyon Range: 95,000 acres.
This area was recommended for wilderness during Rare II, and was dropped without sufficient ~~reasoning~~ justification during the current planning cycle. It has been protected as wilderness since 1973, and should be made a part of the National Wilderness System. 195-2

2) Currant Mountain: 49,000 acres.
This high limestone wilderness contains Bristlecone Pines, Big Horn Sheep, and not one valid mining 195-3

RESPONSES

195-1 Please refer to response number 4-2.

195-2 Please refer to response number 8-7.

195-3 Please refer to response number 8-3.

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195 CONT. COMMENTS ②			RESPONSES
3) Santa Rosa Mtns : 80,000 acres. The Santa Rosas are the most outstanding natural feature in all of N.W. Nevada: no where else in this vast part of the State can be found mountains as well-watered, with numerous trout streams, large Aspen groves, and high peaks. This range is the headwaters of both the Quinn and Little Humboldt Rivers, and should be protected.	195-4	195-4	Please refer to response number 8-12.
4) East Humboldts : 30,000 acres. I have hiked in these spectacular mountains, and feel that they are the most beautiful in all the State. They are extremely wild and are ~~exellent~~ an excellent example of alpine topography. To allow this area to be desecrated would be a crime. I urge the Forest Service to acquire all the private lands in Ackler Basin & Pole Canyon, as well as creating a wilderness area in the heart of these mountains.	195-5	195-5	In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.
5) South Schell Range : 120,000 acres. With a thriving Elk herd, large stands of timber, well-watered creeks & 11,800 ft. ~~moun~~ peaks, these mountains are more than deserving of wilderness protection.	195-6	195-6	Please refer to response number 61-7.
6) Pearl Peak : 23,000 acres. Inclusion of this area, with its Bristlecone Pines and abundant wildlife, would complete the wilderness system badly needed in the Ruby Mountains.	195-7	195-7	It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

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195 CONT. COMMENTS			RESPONSES
③			
7) Elk Mountain : 12,500 acre	195-8	195-8	Please refer to response number 8-11.
8) Jarbidge Additions : 54,000 acres The Forest Service proposal should be increased to include the headwaters of Canyon Creek, Camp Creek, and the land west of St. Mary's Creek.	195-9	195-9	Please refer to response number 8-5.
9) Ruby Mtns : 150,000 acre Along with the East Humboldts, the Rubies are truly the jewel of Nevada. Your Forest Service recommendation should be expanded to include the northern portion of the Range. This is all wild, alpine country, extremely beautiful and a pleasure to ~~[illegible]~~ explore.	195-10	195-10	Please refer to response number 8-4.
10) Mount Moriah : 98,000 acre. Your Forest Service Proposal should also include the southeast portion of the roadless area.	195-11	195-11	Please refer to response number 8-2.
11) Wheeler Peak : 120:000 acre. The Highland Ridge should be included in the Forest Service proposal, and please close the road to Johnson Lake, just above the campgrounds	195-12	195-12	Please refer to response number 8-1.
12) Grant Range : 60,000 acre. Protection of the Bighorn Sheep population will be enhanced by increasing the proposed border to include all of the 60,000 acres mentioned above.	195-13	195-13	Please refer to response number 14-11.

There is no logical reason why any of these areas should not be included in the Wilderness System. None of them has any significant resource conflicts, while all are truly spectacular, wild areas. There is no minerals-production in any of these areas, and since grazing rights are unaffected, the rural economies will not be adversely affected.

I am a native Nevadan, and have visited many of the lands administered by the Humboldt National Forest. These are special lands that I love dearly. Their preservation & protection, in a natural condition, must be the primary pursuit of the Forest Service. We in Nevada have enjoyed a tremendous wilderness heritage. It is our duty to ensure that this same gift ~~to~~ of beautiful, wild lands remains the inheritance of all future generations. We must act now to preserve these lands, for once exploited, they are gone (basically) forever.

In the ten-fifteen years before your next Forest Plan, many of the large roadless areas under your jurisdiction will ~~to~~ lose their wilderness character: the rapid growth of our State ensures this. Therefore I urge you to protect as much of our dwindling wilderness resource as possible. This can be done both by substantial wilderness acreage recommendation (as detailed on pages 1-3), and by halting the senseless construction or reconstruction of roads in or near roadless areas. Furthermore I feel the "Standards and Guidelines" for special protection of the Bristlecone

195-14

195-15

195-14 Please refer to response number 14-3.

195-15 Please refer to response number 14-4.

195 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

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Pine should be adopted by the Forest Service.

Please remember that you are acting on behalf of all 220 million American citizens, and not merely the narrow, exploitive, interests of a few rural Nevadans. This is Americas' public land, and the loss of these few remaining wild areas would be a tragedy of national significance.

Thank-you

Gregory P. Ebner

Gregory P. Ebner
14 East "I" St.
Sparks, Nevada 89431

196

Rose Strickland 1685 KINGS ROW, RENO, NV 89503

OCT 3 1985

September 30, 1985

B. J. Graves, Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Hwy.
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Supervisor Graves,

After studying the proposed Humboldt National Forest Plan and draft Environmental Impact Statement for weeks, I am pleased to submit these personal comments.

I enjoyed reading the proposed Plan. It was written clearly with a minimum of jargon. It was also well organized, at least until the management area direction section which quickly deteriorated into a frustrating exercise in tedium as most provisions were repeated ad nauseum for each area. I suggest that directions, standards, and guidelines which would apply to each area be abstracted and put into the Forest-wide section. 196-1

Although easy to read, the proposed Plan was disappointing. The descriptions of resources did not convey the character of the Humboldt, either its vast scenic and recreational resources or the very real problems faced by the Forest in resolving serious resource management problems. The basic question of how the Forest is going to tackle promoting its recreational resources and solving the problems of continuing poor livestock management, marginal wildlife habitat and deteriorating riparian areas with dwindling annual budgets, fewer staff, and aging equipment and facilities was not adequately addressed. 196-2

Instead the proposed Plan doesn't propose to do much more than keep the status quo, meet minimum management requirements and expand livestock grazing. This is a totally inadequate response.

I believe the proposed Plan had inadequately addressed the issues of wilderness, wildlife, range, and riparian area management. 196-3

Why did the Forest delete over 200,000 acres from its wilderness review and reevaluation? Why are so many roadless area descriptions inaccurate, incomplete, misleading and prejudicial against wilderness? Why did the Forest only recommend 16% of its roadless areas for wilderness? 196-4 The vast, undeveloped open spaces of the Humboldt NF are its greatest asset. As urban populations continue to grow, they will turn to public lands such as on the Humboldt NF for primitive recreation, for the last places in the United States where solitude can be found. Yet the proposed Plan devalues and denigrates its most important resource. The Humboldt Forest and the proposed Plan are apparently captives to more utilitarian rural populations whose immediate livelihoods are more important to them than the needs of nearby multitudes of city dwellers trying to cope with urban stresses. The Forest must walk a fine line between these two forces and determine the national interest. 196-5

I strongly support Forest wilderness recommendations for the following areas: Jarbidge Additions - 54,000 acres, Elk Mountain - 12,000 acres, Santa Rosa - 196-6 thru 196-8

1

RESPONSES

196-1 We have consolidated the repetitive directions, standards, and guidelines into a Forest-wide section as you suggested.

196-2 We feel the descriptions of the resources were adequate considering the vast diversity of the Forest. Direction provided in the Plan will assist us in solving the problems facing the Forest.

196-3 We disagree with your comment that the plan calls only for expanded livestock grazing or that it inadequately addresses wilderness, wildlife, range, and riparian area management. The plan does call for greater emphasis on range because that is the use which has the most impact on the Forest. Our intent however, is not to greatly expand livestock numbers but to better manage livestock to improve the range land resource.

196-4 We disagree with your statement that the Humboldt National Forest has unjustifiably eliminated roadless areas from wilderness recommendation. In the Forest's DEIS nine alternatives, with varying management emphasis and a broad range of recommended wilderness acreage, were comparatively evaluated. We feel that the "Preferred Alternative", presented as the Humboldt National Forest's Plan, provides a mix of resource outputs, including wilderness, that best meets the overall needs of the public.

We disagree that the descriptions are innaccurate, misleading or prejudicial. The intent of the roadless area descriptions was to characterize the overall nature of each of the roadless areas. Specific types of information were not available for all areas. Some area descriptions have been modified to better explain their nature and to clarify rationale for wilderness or nonwilderness recommendation.

196-5 We are directed to consider all resources found on the Humboldt National Forest. Our evaluation and planning process arrived at a recommendation of 15% wilderness as best meeting the needs of all users concerned. This was not an arbitrary task but one into which we put much time and thought.

196-6 Please refer to response number 8-5.

196-7 Please refer to response number 8-11.

196-8 Please refer to response number 8-12.

196-9 Please refer to response number 8-4.

196-10 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness

196 CONT. COMMENTS

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80,000 acres, Ruby Mountains - 143,000 acres, East Humboldt - 27,000 acres, Pearl Peak - 23,000 acres, Schell Peaks - 120,000 acres, Mount Moriah - 88,000 acres, Wheeler Peak - 120,000 acres, Currant Mountin - 49,000 acres, Grant Range - 60,000 acres, and Quinn Canyon Range - 95,000 acres. 196-8 thru 196-17

Wildlife was the most important issue identified by the public in the scoping process, second only to wilderness. Yet, the proposed Plan has no Forest-wide standards and guidelines for wildlife, will not support reintroductions of native wildlife unless there are no conflicts with other existing uses, does not propose habitat improvements to significantly increase wildlife populations, addresses mostly habitat management for game animals and ignores the needs of non-game species, and does not propose to actively seek the resolution of wildlife-livestock conflicts which are effectively stagnating wildlife population levels. 196-18

I urge that the proposed Plan be revised to include strong Forest-wide wildlife standards and guidelines, including the encouragement of reintroduction of native species; significant wildlife habitat improvements, including those needed for non-game species; and the resolution of wildlife-livestock conflicts by requiring improved livestock management practices, livestock reductions where necessary, and grazing systems which do not damage critical wildlife habitat.

The Humboldt NF is the largest range Forest in the Intermountain Region and the public attaches great importance to the issue. The proposed Plan, however, will result in neither significantly increased livestock carrying capacity, nor in significantly improved range conditions - the two goals sought by livestock permittees and conservationists. Instead, the proposed Plan will have the Forest limp along, complete management plans on all its allotments, construct some range improvements for livestock, and improve range conditions and carrying capacity by small percentages. Certainly AMPs should be completed on the last 10% of the allotments. But major revisions of AMPs must be needed if 40-60% of the Forest rangelands in unsatisfactory condition are to improve, if livestock carrying capacity which is up to 10 times less than it used to be is to increase, and if wildlife and livestock which are so competitive for forage resources are to both thrive. 196-19

I urge revisions in the proposed Plan to strengthen its range management directions, standards, and guidelines; complete AMPs for every allotment; substantially revise existing AMPs so as to substantially improve range conditions and carrying capacity; construct multiple-use range improvements; and satisfactorily resolve wildlife-livestock conflicts.

The issue of riparian area management is also of great interest to the public. This invaluable resource is one of the most neglected, poorly managed and degraded resources on the Humboldt NF. Its improvement would have significant positive impacts on recreation and wildlife habitat and populations - both game and non-game species. Yet, the proposed Plan reveals that little is specifically known about riparian area condition on the Humboldt NF and even less is proposed to stop on-going degradation and to improve riparian area management. 196-20

I urge revisions in the proposed Plan to strengthen its riparian area management directions, standards, and guidelines; to inventory its riparian resources; and to develop management plans which will significantly improve riparian area conditions.

RESPONSES

designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

196-11 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

196-12 Please refer to response number 61-7.

196-13 Please refer to response number 8-2.

196-14 Please refer to response number 8-1.

196-15 Please refer to response number 8-3.

196-16 Please refer to response number 14-11.

196-17 Please refer to response number 8-7.

196-18 As previously stated we have rewritten the format for standards and guidelines. The whole plan calls for a continued improvement in ecological condition. We feel this improvement will aid all species that use the Forest. The plan is intended to provide direction to reduce conflicts among wildlife, range, and other uses by more effectively managing livestock. This will show up in riparian areas as well as key habitat for wildlife species. We do not feel livestock-wildlife conflicts are stagnating wildlife populations. Another point of view is that the large numbers of mule deer were a direct result of overgrazing by livestock and their decline in numbers is in response to an improving ecological condition which should allow animal diversity to improve.

196-19 As previously stated the plan does not call for any significant increase in livestock numbers. We agree that AMP's should be completed for the few remaining allotments not now having AMP's and many revisions of existing AMP's are needed. Range planning is a dynamic process so changes will occur continuously as we collect more data and knowledge of each allotment.

As previously stated we have revised our format for directions, standards, and guidelines. We feel this will strengthen the plan and assist us in reaching objectives and goals.

196-20 We have stengthened our directions concerning riparian areas. This is reflected in the final plan. We do not agree with your evaluation of riparian area management although we know there are problems. We feel with our improved range management emphasis improvement will occur in the riparian areas as well as on upland sites.

OCT 3 1985

There are many excellent standards and guidelines for other Forest resources. I strongly support provisions on minerals management, expecially tough reclamation and bonding provisions. Standards and guidelines on ORV use should be strengthened, so that travel plans are revised to protect critical wildlife areas, primitive areas, and areas suffering resource damage from vehicular use. 196-21

I was disappointed in the lack of protection for bristlecone pines in the proposed Plan. Even after recent acts of vandalism and continuing unrestricted vehicular access to bristlecone stands, the proposed Plan fails to include any standards or guidelines for increased protection. I strongly urge the Forest to work with the State of Nevada to effect protective status for the bristlecone, including making cutting or damaging the bristlecones a felony offense. 196-22

The effective abandonment of the thousand mile trail system by the lack of scheduled maintenance and significant construction/reconstuction is a real failure of the proposed Plan. The loss of this invaluable recreational resource is totally unacceptable. The proposed Plan must be revised to conserve the trail system. 196-23

Innovative solutions must be sought to the problems of improving resource management in a time of dwindling budgets. Consolidating personnel and facilities with adjacent forests, contracting with non-profit community groups to maintain trails or accomplish other recreational needs, the greater use of volunteers for needed wildlife habitat, watershed or range improvements must be explored. Better communication with the public on Forest resources, management programs, and needs must be established.

I have personally enjoyed the public lands of the Humboldt NF for the last 10 years. I intend to work towards the implementation of the best Forest Plan we can all develop for the next 50 years. Please take my criticism and suggestions as constructive. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Rose Strickland

196-21 We believe our trail plans for ORV's adequately address your concerns. We have incorporated the ORV plan into our direction, standards, and guidelines. Our travel plan (which address ORV use also) is revised annually to insure we are protecting the resources from indiscriminate ORV use and not unneccessarily closing areas.

196-22 Standards addressing the protection of bristlecone pine are included in the section for each management area that has bristlecone pine. We have also added a goal that further states our intent to protect bristlecone pine.

196-23 Our management direction is to maintain an adequate trail system to meet public needs. We are in the process of completing an updated inventory on the Humboldt's trail system. Until this inventory is complete we will not know how many miles of trail listed no longer exist or what is needed. We currently maintain approximately 200 miles of trail a year. Considering our present road system and means of travel we do not feel it prudent or necessary to keep all old trails.

196-24 We agree that innovative solutions will be needed to solve problems associated with the Forest. We feel the Plan goes a long way towards accomplishing that.

197 COMMENTS

OCT 3 19

WESTERN SHOSHONE NATIONAL COUNCIL
P. O. Box 68
Duckwater, Nevada 89314
(702) 863-0227

197

30 September 1985

Mr. B.J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves,

This letter is in response to the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan draft Environmental Impact Statement and proposed Forest plan Overview package.

After review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement nine management alternatives, appendices, expansion upon the perferred Alternative K and the maps. I have several comments to be submitted and considered.

Chapter I, Chapter II, Chapter III, Affected Environmental and Chapter IV Environmental Consequences refers in general terms to those American Indians living within the affected regions. References include listing of Reservations, and mentioning in terms of the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, and historical, cultural resources.

As stated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the Humboldt National Forest lies within ethnographic territories of the Paiute and Shoshone Indian Tribes. A very significant factor to consider in long range social economic effects in the forest plan is the Western Shoshone are now formally negotiating with the United States Government for the resolution treaty - ratified land claims. The intent of negotiations is to outline an agreement that can be enacted through legislation. 197-1

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Jerry Millett

Jerry Millett, Chief
Western Shoshone National Council

RESPONSES

197-1 **We are aware of the current negotiations between the Western Shoshone and the U.S. Government concerning land claims on a large portion of Nevada. The Forest Plan was developed based on current and potential future conditions which we can estimate. If a change in land status is directed through Congressional legislation, revisions to the plan would be made to correspond to the new direction.**

OCT 3 1985

198

Sept. 29, 1985
261 E. Green St.
Claremont, Calif, 91711

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

I support wilderness protection for

1. CURRANT MOUNTAIN (DUCKWATER)
2. ELK MOUNTAIN
3. GRANT RANGE
4. EAST HUMBOLDT
5. JARBRIDGE ADDITIONS
6. MOUNT MORIAH
7. PEARL PEAK
8. QUINN CANYON RANGE
9. RUBY MOUNTAINS
10. SANTA ROSA
11. SOUTH SCHELL
12. WHEELER PEAK (BRISTLECONE).

198-1
thru
198-12

I support the proposed "Standards and Guidelines" for timber, range, riparian areas, and wildlife.

Robert T. Ives
(Robert T. Ives)

198-1	Please refer to response number 8-3.
198-2	Please refer to response number 8-11.
198-3	Please refer to response number 14-11.
198-4	In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.
198-5	Please refer to response number 8-5.
198-6	Please refer to response number 8-2.
198-7	It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.
198-8	Please refer to response number 8-7.
198-9	Please refer to response number 8-4.
198-10	Please refer to response number 8-12.
198-11	Please refer to response number 61-7.
198-12	Please refer to response number 8-1.

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THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

CALIFORNIA/NEVADA REGION

27 September, 1985

B. J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

The Wilderness Society appreciates the opportunity to comment on the DEIS and Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan for the Humboldt National Forest. The Society has over 140,000 members nationwide, including 500 in Nevada. Members of The Society greatly value Nevada's roadless lands for their scenic beauty, fish and wildlife resources, and the opportunity they provide for solitude and true wilderness experience. In addition, the "island" ecosystem characteristic to many of the areas contributes to their being a special and unique resource not adequately represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Our comments will focus on; 1.) the importance of the forest planning process in Nevada and; 2.) the wilderness recommendations proposed in the Plan. The Wilderness Society strongly objects to the inadequate wilderness recommendations in the proposed Plan. Less than 11 percent of the entire forest, a forest with only one designated wilderness, would be recommended for wilderness under the Plan's Preferred Alternative. 100-1 Only 17 percent of the existing roadless lands on the Forest are proposed for wilderness designation in the Preferred Alternative. 100-2

199-1 Please refer to response number 14-1.

199-2 Please refer to response number 14-1.

1791-A PINE STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94109

199

The Wilderness Society expresses even greater alarm at the failure of the Forest Service to recommend wilderness for roadless areas in which the public has strong interests. Areas such as the East Humboldts, Elk Mountain, Pearl Peak, Quinn Range, Santa Rosa Mountains, and the Schell Creek Range are virtually ignored in the Plan. These areas are ideally suited for wilderness, yet not one single acre has been proposed for wilderness. Mineral potential and increased Off Road Vehicle (ORV) use appear to be the reason for such far reaching non-wilderness recommendations. However, in many cases mineral conflicts are restricted to a portion of a roadless area, yet the entire area is dropped from wilderness considerations. Furthermore, by the Forest Service's own admission, the primary cause of increased ORV use would be the non-wilderness designation itself since the areas are currently being managed to retain their wilderness character. 199-3 thru 199-8 199-9

The Forest Service itself recognizes the wilderness potential inherent to many of the areas, and recommends wilderness for all or portions of many of these areas in four of the Plan's nine alternatives. The Preferred Alternative's recommendations of non-wilderness for 83 percent of all roadless lands on the Forest is unjustified.

The Wilderness Society strongly disagrees with the course that has been charted for the Humboldt National Forest. We urge the Forest Service to revise the Plan's wilderness recommendations and management direction proposed for the Forest's roadless areas.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Hedge

Patricia L. Hedge
Regional Director: California/Nevada

199-3 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

199-4 Please refer to response number 8-11.

199-5 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

199-6 Please refer to response number 8-7.

199-7 Please refer to response number 8-12.

199-8 Please refer to response number 61-7.

199-9 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation. Areas having high mineral potential or only limited opportunities for primitive recreation were not recommended for wilderness.

Based on public input we reexamined the wilderness recommendation and made several significant revisions including boundary adjustments and the addition of portions of two roadless areas. These changes are depicted in Appendix C of the Final Plan.

199 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

OCT 9 1985

199

INADEQUATE WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS

The Humboldt National Forest administers the only designated wilderness area in the state of Nevada, the 64,667 acre Jarbidge Wilderness. The Forest Service now has the opportunity to rectify this glaring absence through wilderness recommendations proposed in the Draft Land and Resource Management Plans mandated by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. It is both troubling and unfortunate that the Forest Service has not taken full advantage of this opportunity.

At present, 50 roadless areas amounting to 1,691,271 acres exist on the Forest. Yet the Forest Service is proposing to recommend only portions of five areas totaling 285,810 acres. At present, less than 3 percent of the entire Humboldt National Forest is designated as wilderness. Under the Preferred Alternative an additional 11 percent would be added to the portion of the forest managed as wilderness. Should such recommendations become law, only 14 percent of the entire Humboldt National Forest would be managed as wilderness, and 86 percent would be managed as non-wilderness and open to development. Implementing this overall management direction for the Humboldt National Forest would achieve little in correcting the current lack of designated wilderness, and would in fact perpetuate an inequitable balance between wilderness and non-wilderness.

The Wilderness Society objects to the specific wilderness recommendations made for each of the five areas in the Preferred Alternative. The proposed recommendations exclude valuable portions of roadless land from each area.

Specifically, we urge the Forest Service to include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and lands west of St. Mary's River in the Jarbidge recommendations. The southeast portion of the Mt. Moriah roadless area should be included in the proposed Mt. Moriah Wilderness, and the northern portion of the Ruby Mountains needs to be included in a wilderness proposal. The Forest Service should also include Highland Ridge in the South Snake recommendations. Lastly, the Grant Range wilderness recommendations should be expanded to include and further protect the Bighorn Sheep population.

OCT 3 1985

199

IMPORTANCE OF WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS IN FOREST PLANNING

The wilderness recommendations contained in the Plan are the result of the RARE II restudy process. The restudy of RARE II was compelled by a decision of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that declared the RARE II study legally inadequate (California vs. Block, 690 F.2d. 753). In states for which Congress has enacted a statewide wilderness bill, the RARE II restudy is a moot point by virtue of "suffiency" language contained in each of the bills.

In states for which Congress has not yet passed a statewide RARE II wilderness bill, the forest planning process becomes the primary arena in which roadless lands are recommended for wilderness. Only Congress can designate wilderness areas. Unfortunately, in several states with significant roadless acreage, bills have not yet been passed. In these states, the fate of all roadless lands administered by the Forest Service will be decided in forest plans unless Congress enacts statewide wilderness legislation prior to adoption of a final plan. For this reason forest planning planning is crucial to the wilderness designation process in Nevada. With this point in mind, we view the meager wilderness recommendations of the Humboldt National Forest with genuine concern.

An initial comment regarding the Plan is that it fails to adequately identify roadless lands. Individual areas including boundaries are not incorporated into the accompanying DEIS or Plan maps. Roadless areas are a unique and special resource carrying intense public interest. The Wilderness Society maintains that roadless areas should be fully identified in Forest Plans to facilitate public comment.

OCT 3 1985

PAGE 1 OF 2

Senator Paul Laxalt
Room 323A Russell Ofc. Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Chic Hecht
302 Hart Bldg. #14
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Barbara Vucanovich
507 Cannon Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Harry Reid
1530 Longworth Ofc. Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Governor Richard Bryan
State Capitol
Carson City, NV 89710

Jim Nelson, Supervisor
Toiyabe National Forest
1200 Franklin Way
Sparks, NV 89431

B.J. Graves
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mtn. City Highway
Elko, NV 98901

September 20, 1985

To Each Of The Above:

We are longtime residents and/or native Nevadans who, along with our families, thoroughly enjoy our State's designated wilderness areas. Their clean, natural beauty is awe inspiring and the protection these areas provide for rare and endangered species is valuable beyond measure. These areas also provide us and our families with wholesome recreational opportunities. We wholeheartedly support the addition of proposed new wilderness areas. 200-1

Mirlene Easley	3217 Brasher St. NE 89030
Shirley Jackson	3629 Whispering Autumn Ct
Sharon Belaker	4186 Waldhaven Ct. 89103
Lugette P. Moore	5715 [illegible] 89103
Rosalie Baylock	5950 Bromley Ln
Pamela Brook	1324 Melville 89102
Jean DeLuca	3151 E. Cairo 89102
[illegible]	2538 [illegible] 89030

200-1 We appreciate your support for our wilderness recommendations.

200 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

September 20, 1985 OCT 3 1985 PAGE 2 OF 2 200

Patti Miller	
Jeri Norgon	5934 Sheila Ave, L.V., NV
[illegible] J. Kearney	5313 SUGARFOOT Av.
Andrew Balieri	6035 CASA LOMA LV
Craig [illegible]	240 [illegible] N.V.
James B[illegible]lond	5500 [illegible] Dr L.V.
William F. McDaniel	5907 Marie Way L.V. Nv. 89108
John D. Brotherson	4541 Wisconsin Ave 89104
Juan [illegible]	708 [illegible] Dr NV 89107
Bill Landolfi	432 N 12th ST #C 89101
Mary Landolfi	" " "
Harvey E. McClain	89102 2709 Castlewood Dr.
Cat Jenkins	6108 Sonoma Cr L.V. 89107
Karen A. Kelly	3751 S Nellis #107 L.V. Nev 89121
Angie Omron	
Linda D. Robinson	1117 Woodbridge Dr. LV 89102
Joan [illegible]	5136 [illegible] 89102
Gary Johnson	2349 B Cardiff LV 89108
Linda L. Sada	2709 Castlewood Dr. 89102

201 COMMENTS

RESPONSES

OCT 3 1985

201

U. S. Forest Service
350 East 8th Street
Ely, Nevada 89301

September 26, 1985

Attention: Mr. Paul Demoule

Gentlemen:

We feel we must respond to the article in the Ely Daily TIMES of Tuesday, September 24, 1985, concerning the "three areas the forest service is recommending to Congress for wilderness - Mt. Moriah, the Grant Range and Bristlecone, which includes Mt. Wheeler."

We believe in the multiple use of the national ranges, and are opposed to these three areas becoming wilderness. To restrict access to wilderness is to restrict, and to restrict is to discriminate against - and we cannot approve discrimination against the elderly, the handicapped, and the physically frail who find it impossible to backpack into wilderness areas.

There should be roads whereby everyone can enjoy the view of the many beautiful areas of Nevada.

201-1 If you or anyone else would like to "test" the wilderness area restrictions, tell them to travel to the Jarbidge area wilderness as we did this summer. There are signs everywhere with restrictions - "No Parking," "No Stopping Here," "No Off-Road Driving," "One Way Only," "Don't Do This," "Don't Do That," etc. Is this really what the majority of the public wants?

Please give serious consideration to recommending the multiple use of Mt. Moriah, the Grant Range and Bristlecone, and Mt. Wheeler; and not suggesting to Congress that they be made into wilderness.

Sincerely -
Albert A. Stone
June Stone

ALBERT A. AND JUNE STONE
1199 Tenth Street
Box 292
Ely, Nevada 89301

RECEIVED
ELY RANGER DISTRICT
SEP 30 '85

201-1 Thank you for expressing your opinion on our recommended wilderness areas. The Forest Service manages the National Forests based on a multiple use philosophy, and seeks to strike a balance among the demands of the various users of the Forests. Wilderness is a resource valued by many people. The Plan's wilderness recommendation is, in our judgement, a fair compromise representing the demands of a majority of the public.

202

OCT 4 1985

October 2, 1985

Dear MR. Graves,

Just a few comments concerning your Draft Land Management Plan. The plan indicates that about half of the National Forest is unsuitable for livestock use because it is too steep. I say that if livestock have grazed these steep slopes for years without damaging them, they have proven that these areas are suitable for grazing. Animals don't walk straight up and down hillsides, they contour around them. 202-1

The plan discusses ways of protecting Riparian areas. Fencing is expensive and impractical. Good management is the only practical way to treat the matter over a long haul. There must be examples of good management of Riparian areas on the Forest at present. These areas should be used as patterns to follow. 202-2

On the issue of Wilderness; we have tried for 10 years to get a trade on with the Forest Service and having become frustrated with these attempts have decided to develope and make use of some of our private checkerboard lands. Congress has three Wilderness bills before it at this time and I would think that rather than the Forest Service curtailing Heli-Skiing in the Rubies, as indicated in your plan, it would be far more prudent to let Congress decide the issue. 202-3

It concerns me that your people have wanted to trade strictly on the basis of grazing values which is fine when the lands to be traded are similar and close in proximinity. However, our private property in the Lamoille Canyon area is admittedly of low grazing value but we have reason to believe that because of it's unique setting it has great development potential. 202-4

I have just received a list of the names of 62 land owners in the Stanley, Idaho area who have been paid substantial sums of money, by the Forest Service, for "Scenic Easements" on their lands. As I understand it, these easements are guarantees that these lands will never be subdivided.

We offered to sell certain pieces of our land to the Forest Service for a realistic price and our offer was flatly rejected yet these people in Idaho were paid as much or more for "easements" than we were offering to sell our land for. I'm wondering why your people didn't even suggest that option to us. 202-5

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your plan.

Sincerely Yours,

Kenneth Jones

202-1 We agree that livestock willingness to use an area is one indication of suitability. However, there are several other factors which we consider in determining suitability. Slope, soil stability, water and forage availability, watershed condition, and kind and class of livestock are additional factors which are taken into account in evaluating suitability. For example, an area in poor watershed condition may be deemed unsuitable for livestock even if it is close to water and has moderate slopes, because watershed condition will continue to deteriorate under grazing pressure.

202-2 Riparian areas provide water and forage for wildlife and livestock. The Forest Plan provides guidance which states, "Fencing as a management tool to toally exclude livestock will be utilized only when no other alternatives are practical." Any fencing of riparian areas will be addressed in allotment management plans which are formulated in cooperation with the livestock permittee.

202-3 The preferred alternative offers the recommendations of the Forest Service on wilderness; it is up to Congress to actually designate wilderness areas. The boundary of the recommended wilderness on the Ruby Mountains has been changed to exclude the areas used by the heli-skiing company, and we do not anticipate a conflict between the heli-skiing operation and a possible wilderness area.

202-4&5 These comments do not relate directly to the Forest Plan or EIS. We have responded to them under separate cover.

203 COMMENTS

OCT 7 1985

203 Sept 22/85

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Hwy
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves,

I agree with accepting your Forest Plan, with the exception of some of your wilderness recommendations. You must increase your Jarbidge recommendation to include Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek and the country west of St. Marys Peak. Elk Mountain is wilderness and should be in your recommendation. The Santa Rosas around Singas Paradise, and Santa Rosa Peaks should all be recommended for wilderness. You left the entire northern portion of the Rubys out of your proposal. They must be included. Wildlife habitat should not be given away in Ackler Basin for bare rocky cliffs in the high country. You should buy this acreage and propose a 30,000 acrea E. Humboldt wilderness. You must extend your Pearl Peak boundary to the S.E. You failed to include the Highland ridge in the magnificent Snake Range !? This is unacceptable. You left out Currant Mtn. 49,000 acres should be protected there. And, you left out 155,000 acres from the Grant-Quinn proposal. Please rethink your position. As it stands now, you have made some gross errors in judgement.

Thank You,

Pete Bradley
1775 Evans #105
Reno, NV 89512

203-1
thru
203-10

RESPONSES

203-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

203-2 Please refer to response number 8-11.

203-3 Please refer to response number 8-12.

203-4 Please refer to response number 8-8.

203-5 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natu integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreat Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been effectively in excluding most of the private land and those having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilder designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's F Plan.

203-6 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilder designation which have a high degree of opportunity for soli and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

203-7 Please refer to response number 8-1.

203-8 Please refer to response number 8-3.

203-9 Please refer to response number 14-11.

203-10 Please refer to response number 8-7.

OCT 7 1985

204

September 30, 1985

Robert Graves, Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada

Dear Supervisor Graves,

I appreciate the work and effort which was required to put together this multi-volume document. It contained a lot of information. However, I believe that it is too repetitive and large to be understood by the general public. The summary was a fairly good quick look, but did only a cursory job of explaining the plan and DEIS. Much more effort could have been put into the summary to explain the FS "preferred alternative" and DEIS as well as provide a clue as to where more detailed information would be found in the remainder of the document.

Although I support the FS recommendations for wilderness, they do not go far enough to protect the wild lands of the Humboldt. Please change the preferred alternative to include a 54,000 acre Jarbidge addition. 204-1 The deletions on the east and south of the Jarbidge wilderness are completely unacceptable. Further, the entire Ruby mountain roadless area of 150,000 acres should be recommended wilderness. The boundaries are too limiting in Lamoille Canyon and completely in error by excluding large acreages in Long Canyon. 204-2 The Mt Moriah recommended wilderness should be increased to 90,000 acres. 204-3

The recommendation for Wheeler Peak (Bristlecone) is too small and should include Lehman Creek, "whiteface" ridge, and the jeep trail from Snake Creek Canyon to Johnson Lake. Bristlecone should also include the Highland Ridge roadless area which is contiguous and was inappropriately studied separately. 204-4 The Grant Range recommendation should be expanded to include the area north of Scofield Canyon and the North and South Forks of Troy Canyon. 204-5

Please add the following areas to your wilderness recommendation--the Santa Rosas, Elk Mountain, East Humboldt Range, Pearl Peak, Schell Creeks, Currant Mountain, and Quinn Canyon Range. 204-6 thru 204-12

I have been most fortunate to enjoy all of these defacto wilderness areas during extensive hiking and exploring trips of the last 15 years. During that time, I have found that these mountains are treasures which we must preserve. They offer superb wildlife habitat, spectacular scenery, peaceful surroundings, and incredible biological diversity.

These Humboldt National Forest areas have great, untapped

204-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

204-2 Please refer to response number 8-4.

204-3 Please refer to response number 8-2.

204-4 Please refer to response number 8-1.

204-5 Please refer to response number 14-11.

204-6 Please refer to response number 8-12.

204-7 Please refer to response number 8-11.

204-8 In evaluating the Humboldt's Draft Plan it was determined that the East Humboldt Roadless Area does have a high degree of natural integrity and solitude conducive to primitive type recreation. Further, we feel that boundary adjustments have been used effectively in excluding most of the private land and those areas having existing or potential uses that would be in conflict with wilderness designation. As a result, it is our decision to recommend the East Humboldt Roadless Area for wilderness designation. This revision is reflected in the Humboldt's Final Plan.

204-9 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

204-10 Please refer to response number 61-7.

204-11 Please refer to response number 8-3.

204-12 Please refer to response number 8-7.

OCT 7 1985

204

recreational potential -- probably more than any other Forest in the nation. In part this is due to poor trails and maintenance of recreational facilities. Please include more emphasis on trail maintenance and environmentally sound trail routing for dispersed recreation use. 204-13

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Dennis Ghiglieri
Reno

204-13 The Final Plan has been revised to increase the emphasis on trails.

205

OCT 7 1985

1985 McCloud Avenue
Reno, Nevada 89512
October 4, 1985

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear B. J.:

Please include this letter in the record of comments on the Humboldt Forest Plan. Thank you.

We have hiked in wilderness areas in California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington, Virginia and West Virginia and have visited many national forests. The Humboldt is our favorite— the most beautiful, wild, and remote. It is a wilderness Forest. You can feel you are walking where no one has ever walked before; a hush comes over you as you come upon the "wild sheep of God" at Troy Peak; your heart breaks at the beauty and courage you see in the bristlecone on Currant Mountain; and your soul leaps for joy with the wild and furious wind racing through the piñon and over limestone ledges at the Quinn Canyon Range, almost blowing you off the mountain.

We complement the Forest Service for recommending five areas for wilderness. We strongly support these proposals. We have visited all and each one is truly outstanding.

2. 205

Wilderness recommendations for the Forest should be strengthened by adding equally deserving lands as outlined below. All can be designated with virtually no impact on non-wilderness uses of the Forest.

We support the Forest Service proposal for Jarbidge Additions, plus: the land west of the Marys River, Camp Creek, the headwaters of Canyon Creek, and a somewhat larger boundary moved to a ridge on the west. This will add some beautiful country and better protect the integrity of the wilderness resource. 205-1

At the Ruby Mountains we support the Forest Service recommendation, with the addition of lands north of Lamoille Canyon and expansion of the wilderness to the south for a total of 146,000 acres. 205-2

We agree Mt. Moriah would make a wonderful wilderness. We support the modified boundaries essentially agreed to by County and ranching interests and Sierra Club, and included in Congressman Harry Reid's legislation. 205-3

We support a "South Snake Range Wilderness" at Wheeler Peak that would include twice the Forest Service recommended acreage, and would encompass much of the artifically sub-divided Highland Ridge unit. 205-4

The Grant Range wilderness proposal should be expanded around Troy Peak, for a total wilderness of 60,000 acres. This area is magnificent wilderness, crucial bighorn sheep habitat, and 205-5

205-1 Please refer to response number 8-5.

205-2 Please refer to response number 8-4.

205-3 Please refer to response number 8-2.

205-4 Please refer to response number 8-1.

205-5 Please refer to response number 14-11.

3. 205

OCT 7 1985

with the modified boundary has little mineral conflict.

The Quinn Canyon Range should be recommended again as it was in RARE II. Claims in the area have been abandoned and the assessment of high mineral potential is simply not backed up by any demonstrable interest by the mining industry, unlike many areas in the state where there are active claims and exploration programs. Known wilderness values here clearly outweigh the rhetoric and speculations regarding potential mineral wealth.

It has been our repeated experience that Currant Mountain (Duckwater) has been overshadowed by other areas on the Forest and its wilderness values seem to have never been evaluated with a fair and open mind. At this time we urge the Forest Service to take another look at this rugged jewel. It has unsurpassed scenic grandeur, fragile soils, an ancient band of bighorn sheep, huge bristlecone sentries as well as thick, straight forests — ALL NEED WILERNESS PROTECTION. It should be classified with the idea of ecological preserve: how many times do we need to keep saying that wilderness areas do not need to be places of wilderness recreation to qualify for protection.

205-6 205-6 Please refer to response number 8-7.

205-7 205-7 Please refer to response number 8-3.

4.

OCT 1 1985

205

We support a Schell Peaks Wilderness of 120,000 acres at the Schell Creek Range. It is big, beautiful country with flowing trout streams, herds of elk, forested basins, and huge rounded peaks and ridges. 205-8

The Santa Rosas are the closest area on the Forest to Reno. Trout streams, raptor habitat, beautiful high country need wilderness protection, some 80,000 acres. 205-9

We support wilderness for the Elk Mountain roadless area 205-10 and the Pearl Peak roadless area with its bristlecone pine in the seldom-visited high ridges. 205-11

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Mazza & Roger Scholl

205-8 Please refer to response number 61-7.

205-9 Please refer to response number 8-12.

205-10 Please refer to response number 8-11.

205-11 It is our intent in the Plan to recommend areas for wilderness designation which have a high degree of opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation. It is our determination that the Pearl Peak Roadless Area does not exhibit a high degree of solitude and has only a moderate level of opportunity for primitive recreation. As such, it is our decision not to recommend Pearl Peak for wilderness designation.

OCT 8 1985

206

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
215 Fremont Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94105

OCT 3 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) titled HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN; ELKO, HUMBOLDT, LINCOLN, NYE AND WHITE PINE COUNTIES, NEVADA. We have the enclosed comments regarding this DEIS.

We have classified this DEIS as Category EC-2, Environmental Concerns - Insufficient Information (see attached "Summary of Rating Definitions and Follow-Up Action"). This DEIS is rated EC-2 because 1) a more detailed evaluation of riparian habitats is requested, 2) water quality impacts of management activities need to be addressed and 3) air quality impacts which could result from mining activities should be discussed. The classification and date of EPA's comments will be published in the Federal Register in accordance with our public disclosure responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this DEIS. Please send five copies of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to this office at the same time it is officially filed with our Washington, D.C. office. If you have any questions, please contact Juli Jessen, Federal Activities Branch, at (415) 974-0257 or FTS 454-0257.

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Murray, Jr.

Charles W. Murray, Jr.
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Policy and Management

Enclosure (3 pages)

206 CONT. COMMENTS

RESPONSES

OCT 8 1985

206.

-1-

Water Quality Comments

COMMENTS			RESPONSES
1. The Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines should include measures to protect or improve water quality and soil conditions in the Forest. This guidance should include a plan for continued compliance with state water quality standards. Furthermore, this category of the Standards and Guidelines should outline management practices to protect water quality during the construction of water storage facilities anticipated in the DEIS (p. III-25).	206-1	206-1	The Forest-wide standards and guidelines found in Chapter IV outline several measures to protect and improve water quality and soil condition. Included is specific direction to comply with state water quality standards. The Forest does not anticipate construction of any specific water storage or transmission systems although we do expect demand for these to increase over the planning period. Prior to construction of any such facilities a thorough environmental analysis would be conducted and the proper environmental document prepared as required by the NEPA.
2. The DEIS states that the riparian habitat quality is declining (p. IV-15) while "public demand for better management of riparian areas becomes more apparent each year." (p. III-25) In managing these areas, EPA recommends that emphasis focus on riparian areas where water quality standards violations may occur, where recreation most often occurs and where threatened and endangered species are found.	206-2	206-2	Page IV-15 of the DEIS does not state that riparian habitat quality is declining. It states that some riparian areas will continue to decline under alternatives D and E. The Preferred Alternative (K) will enhance the condition of riparian habitats. As stated in the EIS water quality presently meets state standards. Standards and guidelines for soil and water, and riparian area management are sufficient to meet the objectives and goals of the plan.
3. The discussion of riparian/wetland habitats in Chapter III, Affected Environment, does not adequately identify these areas within the Humboldt National Forest. The DEIS implies that adequate maintenance of habitat requirements for trout will also protect the health of riparian communities. However, riparian/wetland habitats are variable in type and have evolved and are maintained under different environmental conditions. We suggest that the FEIS and final Forest Plan identify specific riparian/wetland communities of importance within the Forest. Riparian/wetland habitats associated with spring and seep complexes, washes, marshes, seasonal/playa lakes as well as major intermittent and perennial streams and lakes should be delineated. The acreage of these communities could be presented in Table III-6, on page III-19 of the DEIS, or in a separate table. If, however, information on the extent of riparian/wetland habitats within the Forest is presently not known, we suggest that an inventory and classification of these areas be given research priority as recommended in the Proposed Forest Plan (p. II-33).	206-3	206-3	The exact acreage of riparian areas is not known. As is already indicated in the Proposed Forest Plan in Chapter II this is a research need.
4. The Minerals Management Standards and Guidelines should include provisions to ensure that polluted runoff will not enter streams. If general standards are not appropriate, the Standards and Guidelines should indicate that plans for mining activities will include site specific runoff control measures.	206-4	206-4	The Final Plan includes provisions for coordination with minerals management and water resources in goals 36, 37, and 40. In addition, a standard is included which states, "Allow resource development activities that can be mitigated to meet Federal, State, and local water quality standards." As specified in NEPA, we consult with all interested publics including involved agencies such as Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, as appropriate.
5. The Forest Plan (p. II-6) states that "most of the trail system has deteriorated badly" and that "most trails were not designed for motor vehicles." Despite this, ninety-four percent of the Forest is open to off road vehicles (ORVs). EPA suggests that the Standards and Guidelines include indicators for sensitive trails which should be closed to motorized use.	206-5	206-5	Ninety-four percent of the nonwilderness acres of the Forest are open to ORV use. This is equal to approximately 90 percent of the Forest. The Plan was revised to clarify this. As stated in the management direction and standards and guidelines in the Plan, we will monitor the effectiveness of the Travel Plan and update it annually. The intent of the Travel Plan is to minimize user conflicts, reduce resource damage, and maintain public safety. The section in the Plan to which you refer discusses problems on trails due to ORV's. As part of the annual update of the Travel Plan we evaluate any conflicts on trails due to ORV use and close such trails to ORV use, as needed.

OCT 8 1985

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-2-

Air Quality Comment

Neither the DEIS nor the Forest Plan mentions the most significant air quality problem in northeastern Nevada, the Steptoe Valley, which has been designated a Nonattainment Area for sulfur dioxide. The Nonattainment Area includes portions of the Schell Creek and Ward Mountain Divisions of the Humboldt National Forest. This nonattainment status is attributable to emissions from the copper smelter at McGill.

The FEIS and final Forest Plan should identify these air quality impacts and present a means for assessing impacts of future mining plans. 206-6

206-6 Management direction has been included in the Final Plan to manage the Forest airsheds to class II air quality, except over wilderness areas which will be managed to maintain class I air quality standards.

We do not currently expect any major mining proposals. Prior to implementing any major mining activity an environmental analysis would be conducted which includes involvement of interested publics and agencies and the appropriate environmental document prepared. Air quality would be considered during the environmental analysis.

OCT 3 1985

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SUMMARY OF RATING DEFINITIONS AND FOLLOW-UP ACTION*

Environmental Impact of the Action

LO—Lack of Objections
The EPA review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the proposal. The review may have disclosed opportunities for application of mitigation measures that could be accomplished with no more than minor changes to the proposal.

EC—Environmental Concerns
The EPA review has identified environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment. Corrective measures may require changes to the preferred alternative or application of mitigation measures that can reduce the environmental impact. EPA would like to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

EO—Environmental Objections
The EPA review has identified significant environmental impacts that must be avoided in order to provide adequate protection for the environment. Corrective measures may require substantial changes to the preferred alternative or consideration of some other project alternative (including the no action alternative or a new alternative). EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

EU—Environmentally Unsatisfactory
The EPA review has identified adverse environmental impacts that are of sufficient magnitude that they are unsatisfactory from the standpoint of public health or welfare or environmental quality. EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts. If the potential unsatisfactory impacts are not corrected at the final EIS stage, this proposal will be recommended for referral to the CEQ.

Adequacy of the Impact Statement

Category 1—Adequate
EPA believes the draft EIS adequately sets forth the environmental impact(s) of the preferred alternative and those of the alternatives reasonably available to the project or action. No further analysis or data collection is necessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying language or information.

Category 2—Insufficient Information
The draft EIS does not contain sufficient information for EPA to fully assess environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment, or the EPA reviewer has identified new reasonably available alternatives that are within the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which could reduce the environmental impacts of the action. The identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussion should be included in the final EIS.

Category 3—Inadequate
EPA does not believe that the draft EIS adequately assesses potentially significant environmental impacts of the action, or the EPA reviewer has identified new, reasonably available alternatives that are outside of the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which should be analyzed in order to reduce the potentially significant environmental impacts. EPA believes that the identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussions are of such a magnitude that they should have full public review at a draft stage. EPA does not believe that the draft EIS is adequate for the purposes of the NEPA and/or Section 309 review, and thus should be formally revised and made available for public comment in a supplemental or revised draft EIS. On the basis of the potential significant impacts involved, this proposal could be a candidate for referral to the CEQ.

---

*From: EPA Manual 1640 Policy and Procedures for the Review of

OCT 3 1985

207

James S. Bigelow, P.E.
Consulting Geologist
43612 Lively Ave
Lancaster, California 93534

October 4, 1985

B.J Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humbolt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr Graves.

I urge you to recommend that the areas in Humbolt National Forest selected by the Sierra Club to be set aside as wilderness areas be so treated. 207-1

As a young geologist I hiked through many of the lovely and beautiful mountains. And the thought of turning them into marginal cattle and sheep grazing areas is distressing to me

I hope and pray that you will your influence to keep these areas in their wilderness state with their native wildlife populations.

Sincerely yours,

James S. Bigelow

207-1 Please refer to response number 4-2.

208

OCT 01 1985
OCT 10 1985

October 6, 1985

B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV. 89801

Dear Mr. Graves,

This is to encourage support to retain all possible areas in the Humboldt National Forest as wilderness areas with access within only by non-motorized travel.

Within this area are invaluable and comparatively rare flora and fauna. Its damage would create a terrible detriment to itself and to those of us who depend on wilderness for psychological and physical exercise. 208-1

Sincerely yours,
Stephen Alastuey

208-1 Please refer to response number 4-2.

209 COMMENTS

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RESPONSES

OCT 11 1985

B.O. Groves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Hwy.
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Groves:

This letter is to urge you to support all recommended areas for wilderness + roadless designation. The particular areas in need of protection are: the Jarbidge addition, Elk Mountains, the Ruby Mts. + Wheeler Peak.

209-1 thru 209-5

The unique vegetation + geology of these areas should be preserved for the future. Present economic development will result in only marginal benefits + permanent loss of aesthetic values.

Thank you,

Tom Penlaster
Box 1982
So. Lake Tahoe, CA 95705

209-1	Please refer to response number 4-2.
209-2	Please refer to response number 8-5.
209-3	Please refer to response number 8-11.
209-4	Please refer to response number 8-4.
209-5	Please refer to response number 8-1.

210 COMMENTS

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NOV 1 1985

OCT 15 '85

September 30, 1985

Mr. B. J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humbolt National Forest
976 Mountain City Hiway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves,

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Humbolt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as prepared by the Forest Service, are well written documents. By recognizing the constraints placed upon any plan by the Multipe Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960 and the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and as amended in 1976, plus the Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Proposed Forest Plan, with Alternative K incorporated, deals effectively with the myriad of interests placed upon the forest. Alternative K responds positively to the planning problems encountered and attempts to mitigate any adverse impacts. A balance is created in Alternative K that is lacking in the other alternatives. 210-1

The areas in the "wilderness-further study areas" should be included as part of the wilderness package. These areas provide an opportunity to protect unique geographical, pysiographical, and biological ecosystems. These few outstanding areas, when included, would enhance Nevada's unique position of having alpine and sub-alpine features juxtaposed to desert features. This contrast is worth the effort of preserving these areas. Including these areas will not be detrimental to other interests in the immediate vicinity.

Of the alternatives considered Alternative K, I believe, is the most appropriate. However, I would like to give my reasons for excluding the others. Alt. E with its constrained budget, is unrealistic because any and/or all costs of maintaining what is currently in existance will increase over time. Alt. F having been proposed by "upper management" would be ineffective. Alt. H by definition is the no action alternative, which is inappropriate because the forest is not static; the question is which action best provides progress in management of the forest, not to take a "no action" stance. Alt. A is extreme to their respective ends. Alt. C gives a good overview of what the forest may achieve in dollar values, however, there are some things that cannot have a dollar value placed upon them, namely personal and aesthetic values, among others, which the forest provides and we must preserve. Alt. D assumes the current budget will remain in tact, which is unlikely, but it does provide a starting point for analysis of the other alternatives. Alt. I and J are extremes that are unrealistic expectations for those who would receive the outcome of one of these alternatives.

RESPONSES

210-1 We appreciate your support of our Land Management Plan and for Preferred Alternative.

Alt. K, the preferred alternative, provides the balance among the various interests and attempts to mitigate any adverse impacts encountered.

Thank you for allowing me to contribute to the process of determining the course of action to which our national forests will be subjected to.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Parr
5303 Stampa Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89102

210 CONT. COMMENTS

I have sent copies of my comments to the following:

Congressman Chic Hecht, Nevada
Congresswoman Barbara Vucanovich, Nevada
Congressman John Seiberling, Ohio
Congressman Harry Reid, Nevada
Congressman Paul Laxalt, Nevada
Governor Richard Bryan, Nevada
Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter, Las Vegas Group

RESPONSES

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NOV 12 1985

DEPARTMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES
College of Natural Resources
UMC 52
Utah State University
Logan, Utah 84322

(801) 750-2455
(801) 750-2456

October 30, 1985

B.J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

I have just reviewed the Reconnaissance Reports for Research Natural Areas on the Nevada national forests prepared by the Nature Conservancy; and wish to comment on them.

First, with regard to Pearl Peak: I support the recommendation of a 640-acre total as preferable to 470 acres, mainly because it would have more logical boundaries. | 211-1

Second, I support the recommendation for a 220-acre RNA on Mt. Washington--but only because it's the only recommendation on the table. Actually, I believe a much larger RNA should be established to include all bristlecone stands on Mt. Washington. | 211-2

It is a mistake to protect, for research purposes, only ancient bristlecone stands. Despite the large amount of dendrochronology that has been done with this species, very little other research has been executed. As a result, we really know very little about its life history and biology--growth rates on soils of varying composition, relationships with animals and other plants, fire and pest interactions, etc.

In order to make full use of the very old trees, it will become necessary in the near future to get a full picture of bristlecone pine's total biology--and you don't get this by studying only ancient trees. Rather, what is needed is a full range of age classes and of plant associations in which bristlecone pine (BCP) is found.

I'd like to give you some examples from my own research--and I have only begun to study this pine, so I am not really highly experienced with it.

211-1 Please refer to response number 142-15.

211-2 Please refer to response number 142-11.

1. Branch formation. One of my students and I have recently learned that BCP fails to form branch buds in normal numbers. However, at least on Mt. Washington and Wheeler Peak, it compensates for this lack by putting out branches from buds that form inside needle fascicles. This is a unique habit among the 110 or so pine species in the world, and we are continuing our study of it for publication in the near future. To properly assess the importance of the phenomenon, one must look at a full range of age classes on the same site.

2. The same is true of adventitious branches, which appear to grow from long-dormant buds on old branches. This requires dissection for proper study and we have not yet done anything about it. But, again, one must study trees of all ages in the same place to get a handle on it.

3. Stem-clumping. The enclosed xerox from my recent book "Trees of the Great Basin" will give you an idea of the possible role of Clark's Nutcracker in regenerating BCP. This brief study was done in the White Mountains, but preliminary work I did last summer on Mt. Washington has convinced me that nutcrackers are responsible for most of the BCP regeneration there also--and that the majority of ancient trees were established as seedlings from nutcracker seed caches. This bird-pine interaction must be understood in order to comprehend the history leading to the occurrence of ancient trees. Such understanding has to come from studies of stands at all ages.

In addition, the time is coming when research must be aimed at learning the effects of old age on trees. This is very basic biology that should be applicable to tree growth elsewhere. Such work requires a full range of age classes on the same sites, for maximum value.

Mount Washington is the best site I have seen for biological studies of BCP, by far. I would encourage setting aside an RNA that includes the lower edge of the BCP where it grows with white fir and mountain-mahogany, and the pure forest-like stands, and the old burn, as well as the very old trees. Only in this way can we have an RNA that truly encompasses the entire life history and plant community-relationships of this species that is so valuable to science.

I would be happy to discuss my data and ideas on BCP biology with you and your staff anytime, if you think it would be useful.

Sincerely,

Ron Lanner
Ronald M. Lanner
Associate Professor

CC: Joel Tuhy

212

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Elko, Nevada

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1601 (NV-010)

B.J. Graves, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Mr. Graves:

The following is a summary of the comments made in our meeting of September 18 discussing consistency between the Humboldt National Forest and the adjoining public lands within the Elko District.

Overall, there is a need to maintain early consultation between our agencies in all actions which directly or indirectly affect lands administered by either agency. This is presently of key concern to BLM in three areas. These are:

- Lands and Realty

212-1 Within the preferred alternative of your Resource Management Plan, certain proposals for lands actions are made, e.g. the annual processing of three rights-of-ways and one exchange. Where these actions may influence lands administered by BLM, early communication between agencies is imperative.

- Wilderness Resources

212-2 Currently, the Preferred Alternative for the Elko Resource Area recommends the Rough Hills Wilderness Study Area near Charleston as preliminarily suitable for wilderness designation. This area is contiguous to the Mountain City Ranger District for a distance of approximately one and one-half miles. Correspondingly, your proposal for the Jarbidge Roadless Area (No. 4-372), borders the Wells Resource Area for about two miles in the Cottonwood Creek area. In view of these situations, coordination of management on the adjacent lands is of primary concern. Information exchange on such actions as proposed range and wildlife improvements and known off-road vehicle use with the potential of influencing wilderness characteristics could be invaluable in reducing problems.

- Wildlife Resources

212-3 Two issues of concern in wildlife management are potential reintroductions and riparian/stream habitat management. Both of these actions could be facilitated greatly through early consultation between our agencies. Through cooperation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, planning for reintroduction/augmentations in areas where there is overlapping responsibilities would benefit from a consolidated, BLM-USFS approach to habitat management.

212-1 We agree and during the initial planning phases of these realty actions coordination with the BLM will commence.

212-2 We agree that information exchange on our adjacent recommended wilderness areas would be invaluable in reducing problems. This type of information exchange should be items of discussion at our annual coordination meetings.

212-3 We agree and will work towards an atmosphere of closer cooperation involving reintroductions/augmentations in areas where there is overlapping agency responsibility.

212 CONT. COMMENTS

Secondly, a situation of concern is where an action is being considered on the upper watersheds of streams located on Forest Service administered lands that flow onto public lands and these actions may affect downstream management. Examples of these actions include vegetation manipulations or mining activities conducted or allowed in the immediate vicinity of an upstream watershed. Within the management plan for the Wells Resource Area and the preferred plan for the Elko Resource Area, certain streams, identified in conjunction with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, have been identified for management emphasis over the twenty year planning period. The following is a listing of these streams by resource area and the number of miles which are on public lands which could be influenced by actions conducted on Humboldt National Forest lands:

Wells Resource Area	
Salmon Falls Drainage	
Canyon Creek	6.0 miles
Cottonwood Creek	10.3
Salmon Falls (Main and South Fork)	10.5
Mary's River Drainage	
Chimney Creek	3.0 miles
Draw Creek	2.2
Mary's River	5.3
T. Creek	1.5
Elko Resource Area	
Humboldt River Drainage	
Pearl Creek	2.0 miles
North Fork Humboldt	16.0
Gance Creek	1.0
Sheep Creek	1.0
Willow Creek	3.0
Bruneau River	4.0
Snake River Basin	
Water Pipe Canyon	1.5

In summary, it appears our plans are consistent and complementary. I feel this can be attributed to the continued high level of cooperation experience between our offices.

Sincerely yours,

RODNEY HARRIS
District Manager

RESPONSES

212-4 212-4 We appreciate receiving the information regarding the streams within the Elko BLM district identified for management emphasis. We are in the process of developing similar types of information and will provide it to the BLM upon its completion.

MAILING LIST

A complete list of names and addresses of agencies, organizations, and persons to whom copies of the statement were sent is on file in the Forest Supervisor's Office, Elko, Nevada.

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Department of Agriculture

Farmers Home Administration
Salt Lake City, Utah

Science and Education Administration
Washington, D.C.

Department of Defense

United States Air Force - CR - ROW
Dallas, Texas

Department of Interior

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Carson City, Nevada

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Elko, Nevada

Bureau of Land Management
Elko, Ely, Reno, and Winnemucca, Nevada

Geological Survey
Menlo Park, California

STATE OF NEVADA

Colorado River Res.
Las Vegas, Nevada

Governor's Office of Planning Coordination
Carson City, Nevada

Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Carson City, Nevada

Nevada Department of Minerals
Carson City, Nevada

Nevada Department of Wildlife
Elko and Reno, Nevada

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Carson City, Nevada

Nevada Division of Forestry
Carson City, Nevada

Nevada State Planning Coordinator
Carson City, Nevada

OTHER STATES

California

Colorado River Board
State of California
Los Angeles, California

Colorado

Colorado State University
Forest and Wood Sciences
Fort Collins, Colorado

New Mexico

Water Resources Division
Natural Resources Department
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Utah

Division of Water Resources
Salt Lake City, Utah

Wyoming

State Engineer
Cheyenne, Wyoming

COUNTY/LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Elko County Manager
Elko, Nevada

Humboldt County Regional Planning Commission
Winnemucca, Nevada

ELECTED OFFICIALS

U. S. Senate

Honorable Chic Hecht
Honorable Paul Laxalt

House of Representatives

Honorable Harry Reid
Honorable Barbara F. Vucanovich

INDIAN TRIBES

Fort McDermitt Tribal Office
MrDermitt, Nevada

Shoshone-Paiute Business Council
Owyhee, Nevada

Te-Moak Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada
Elko, Nevada

PUBLIC AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Nevada State Library
Carson City, Nevada

INDIVIDUALS

A copy of this final statement was sent to all individuals who commented on the draft. In addition, copies were also sent to the following individuals:

Phil Briggs
Kenneth Goldsmith
Rodney Greeno
Jim McInerney
Lawrence Ruth

ORGANIZATIONS

A copy of this statement was sent to all organizations which commented on the draft. In addition, a copy was also sent to the following organization:

Earth First
Tusdon, Arizona

VII.

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CHAPTER VII

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